



AMERICAN FOUNDATION
FOR THE BLIND INC.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
Lyrasis Members and Sloan Foundation

<http://archive.org/details/beacon34191920unse>

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—No. 25.

JANUARY, 1919.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

EDITORIAL.



NEW YEAR lies before us with all its opportunities. After the sorrows and sufferings of the last four years and more, this should be a wonderful time in which to build up the world anew, and to make of it a fitter place for its people to inhabit. Elsewhere in these pages we have spoken of the work which is being undertaken to equip blind babies for the battle of life. Let us start our work of reconstruction in the morning of the year, as we endeavour to bring sunshine to these young beings at the dawn of their lives. And each one of us must put his hand to the plough, because there is work for us all to do. The problems which confront us are so manifold that it is impossible to enumerate them. So many evils were creeping almost unnoticed into Society before the war. Then came the great upheaval, which has opened our eyes to many things which can and must be remedied at once. Thus from the greatest ill good will surely spring.

First and foremost among the problems which we have to face is that of education. Though the last decade has seen a wonderful improvement, many of our methods are hampered by old superstitions, and are totally inadequate to the needs of the times, and many important alterations and modifications must still be effected. In education, as in all other things, we seek equal opportunities for each individual, in whatever station of life. Equal opportunities of happiness, better education, healthier and

more beautiful homes, more sunshine — unlimited sunshine — for all: these are among the things for which we are working. At one time it was the fashion to admire scenes which were covered by a slight haze or fog, as in Turner's landscapes. This fashion has passed away, and if the colours of the modern pictures be somewhat crude, at least they have the merit of being bright and clear.

And if the war has taught us anything it must surely have taught us what a world of difference lies between the two words "sympathy" and "pity." The victory that we have won with the help of the Allies is complete. Germany lies at our feet, crushed and helpless. Had she met us in fair fight, had she waged war with us in a spirit of chivalry and fair-mindedness, we might have found for her now a meed of pity, but she was a foul fighter always, and it is impossible to associate pity with the actions of a monster.

We are only now beginning to realise that after the terrible strain of the past four years we are coming back to a world which is in a sense a completely new world. The British Empire has given of its best, it has given the flower of its manhood, and a million of its brave young lives have been sacrificed in the common cause of humanity. The Empire has been welded together by the common ties of sympathy and understanding; our sympathy therefore is with our kith and kin. Pity we may have for the misguided people of Germany, but in that very pity there is a contempt that is as justifiable as it is necessary. When we consider that the horrors of the past four years were engendered by the people who even now

seem unable to realise the extent of their criminality, we can only demand that justice is the keynote for all our dealings with them. After the long years of suspense and tension all that is human within us asks for relief. Our first duty is to ourselves. Sunshine and Truth, these are what we want to bring into the hearts and homes of everyone.

Let us then start our work hopefully, hampered by no "past regrets and future fears." Let us try to make our corner of the world a "Sunshine House."

OOOO

THE DUKE'S OLD HAT.

DAINTY vanity bags, made out of old silk top hats by wounded soldiers, were sold at Bristol on December 6th, at a sale on behalf of St. Dunstan's. One bag, made from one of the Duke of Beaufort's old hats, was presented by the maker, Corporal Mitchell, to the Duchess of Beaufort, who opened the sale. Another bag, made from one of the Bishop of Bristol's old hats, was presented to the Bishop's wife.

OOOO

MR. SPENCER, the Secretary of the Research Department at the National Institute for the Blind, has been invited by the War Office to return to Military Hospital work, with the primary object of attending a special course in psychotherapy for officers of the R.A.M.C. Mr. Spencer has gone into residence at Maghull Military Hospital for patients suffering from shell-shock, where a ward will be allotted to him. Since losing his sight he has been devoting all his spare time to the difficult task of advising the War Pensions Committee in the North of London with regard to the treatment of discharged neurasthenic and mental cases, and has successfully cured all those men whom he has selected as suitable for home treatment by himself.

OOOO

VERY justly the King, in conferring the O.M. upon Marshal Foch, described it as the highest honour in his power to bestow. Unlike some orders, the Order "For Merit," as the inscription on the badge records, is awarded for supreme distinction in science and art, including the military art—or science. It carries with it no special title or personal precedence, yet it is esteemed above all British knighthoods. There are twenty members, two of these being Prince Yamagata and Admiral Togo.

"LIGHT IN DARKNESS."

THE Annual Report of the Church Missionary Society's Schools for the Blind in South India gives us some very interesting facts concerning the work which is being carried on there. There are eighty-two blind boys and sixty-two girls in the schools, and six blind assistant schoolmasters and eight blind assistant schoolmistresses. Besides this, ten blind youths who were educated in these schools are teachers in village schools for sighted children, half their salaries being paid out of the funds of these schools for the blind.

The chief event of the year was the opening of a new Hospital for the blind girls. This was given and built by the Government, and is an enormous boon to the school.

A great feature in these schools appears to be the teaching of weaving. Five boys passed their Government weaving examination at the end of last year. None of the blind boys have ever failed in these tests, though they take exactly the same examination as the sighted boys. The Government has granted funds for the building of rooms in which the looms shall be properly accommodated. There is great need of a good supply of yarn. It is now so expensive to buy from the mills that some of the Mission Industrial Schools have had to give up weaving and take up other industries. The attention of subscribers is drawn to the fact that all money now sent from England is very much depreciated in value before it reaches its destination.

OOOO

THE syllabus for the 1919 Examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind is now ready, and may be obtained, post free, from the Hon. Registrar, College of Teachers of the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

OOOO

A NEW home for thirty aged and infirm blind persons, established by the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, at Oaklands, Eccles Old Road, was opened on October 30th. In the absence of Lady Mountmorres, who was indisposed, the ceremony was performed by Mrs. Ingleby.

THE GLYNN VIVIAN HOME OF REST FOR THE BLIND.

THE Glynn Vivian Home of Rest for the Blind, at Caswell Hill, Mumbles, was founded in 1907 by the late Mr. R. Glynn Vivian. Its object is that of providing a Holiday Home, where blind workers and convalescents may enjoy complete rest amid surroundings hard to equal for beauty and purity of air.

The Home is situated on the top of the cliff overlooking Langland Bay. The air is extremely bracing, and it is particularly beneficial for people suffering from chest and lung troubles. The house is built in bungalow fashion, and is situated very pleasantly in its own grounds; house and grounds are so situated that they gain the maximum amount of sunshine.

Blind people are extremely sensitive to a beautiful environment, deriving some subtle pleasure and satisfaction from the nearness of the gorgeous colouring of a summer day in the heart of the country, and finding enjoyment in the perfume of flowers, the song of birds, and the hum of insects. The excellence of position, therefore, which is enjoyed by the Glynn Vivian Home of Rest, is certainly not the least of its attractions.

There is sleeping accommodation for seventeen inmates, ten women and seven men. The existence of a Home of this nature in any neighbourhood is almost bound to arouse the interest and practical help, sympathy and encouragement of the inhabitants, and in this the Glynn Vivian Home is no exception. Teas, concerts, and other entertainments are given by many of the kind-hearted folks in its vicinity for the benefit of the inmates, while daily gifts of eggs, butter, fruit and vegetables fall to its share.

The Home is mainly dependent on subscriptions and donations for defraying expenses, as only a nominal fee of 10s. per week is paid by the inmates.

OOOO

"WHAT do you think of the Army as far as you have gone?" inquired a sergeant of a newly arrived recruit at camp.

"I may like it after a while, but just now I think there is too much drilling and fussing around between meals," was the reply.

ELECTORS who are encouraging their candidates with "Hear, hear," may care to remember that it was a woman who first used the phrase. Take your Bible and turn to II. Samuel, xx., 16, and you will find the words, "Then cried a wise woman out of the city, Hear, hear."

In the French Parliament "Tres bien!" takes its place, whilst Dickens gives three variants in his works. At the reception, in "Martin Chuzzlewit," of the Hon. Elijah Pogram, Colonel Groper ejaculated, "Good, very good! Hear him! Hear him!" At the company meeting in "Nicholas Nickleby," several gentlemen cried "Hear!" which becomes reduplicated to "Hear, hear!" at the charity dinner in "Sketches by Boz."

OOOO

"BIG BEN'S" chimes, reheard after long silence, were copied from the famous chimes of Great St. Mary's at Cambridge, which Lord Grimthorpe wrongly traced to Handel. They were really composed by Jowett, an unpopular tutor of Trinity Hall.

Jowett was a "smallholder" who transformed a plot of ground annexed from the neighbouring street into a tiny garden. This suggested to one of his numerous enemies the libellous lampoon:—

A little garden little Jowett made,
And fenced it with a little palisade.
If you would know the mind of little
Jowett,
This little garden would a little show it.

OOOO

WITH an aeroplane passenger service to Paris an accomplished fact, Horace Walpole's playful prophecy in 1784 after seeing Blanchard's balloon ascent, may in time come true. "I amused myself," he wrote, "with ideas of the change that would be made in the world by the substitution of balloons for ships. I supposed our seaports to become deserted villages, and Salisbury Plain, Newmarket Heath, and all downs but The Downs arising into dockyards for aerial vessels."

OOOO

SON: "Who were Santa Claus' ancestors?"

PA: Oh, I dare say he's from some lost branch of the Christmas-tree."

OOOO

MEDICAL OFFICER: "Have you any organic trouble?"

RECRUIT: No, sir. I ain't a bit musical.

THE LAST PIGEON.

AN INCIDENT OF THE WAR.

[At the Savoy Fair, held on behalf of the Prisoners of War Fund, was a pen of captured German pigeons. Some of the birds brought in messages from aircraft in distress at sea. One of the pigeons was wounded and totally blinded, but, heroically and successfully, he carried out his mission. Another bird completed 150 patrols, bringing in twelve messages, seven of which were in advance of any other means of communication.]

IN this, man's war, on land, on sea, in air,
The dumb creation, too, has borne its share.

Nobly the horse has played his 'customed part ;

The dog, well trained, has helped the healer's art ;

E'en the canary has her duty done
In helping to defeat the hateful Hun.

But no dumb creature, of whate'er degree,
Has more advanced the Day of Victory
Than the wingéd messenger—the carrier dove,

The age-long ministrant of war and love.

Somewhere in England, at an Air Force base,
A pigeon, stuffed, is seen in a glass case,
And this the story—every word is true—
Of how the bird helped save an air-boat's crew :

'Gainst every craft our Air Force was engaged;
In air and on the sea the battle raged.
A two-seater of ours fell in the sea,
Helpless, disabled by the enemy.

A British flying-boat picked up the crew,
Although her hull was riddled through and through ;
The water, pouring in, forbade her flight—
Two of her crew must bale to keep her right.

She had three pigeons ; one was sent in vain,
And then, next day, another, help to gain.
No succour came, and so the third and last
Was loosed. How slowly the hours passed!

But let us follow thro' the gusty air
The bird which bore the message of despair.
She struggled gamely on, by instinct led,
Alighted at the station, and fell—dead
Of sheer exhaustion. Forthwith help was sent,
The crew released from their predicament :

Five days and nights upon death's very brink,

No scrap of food to eat, their only drink
The water from the radiator tanks.

Oh ! that they could have paid their grateful thanks

Unto the gallant messenger who gave
Her life unselfishly their lives to save !
But she had passed beyond their loving care—
Their feathered sister, pilgrim of the air.

Methinks I see some cynic muttering,
"Unselfish ? Gallantry ? 'twas no such thing,
It was but instinct, sir, from first to last.
No thought of others urged her fight the blast !"

To that I say, "Deny it, if you can,
That instinct oft inspires the deeds of man ;
And who shall arbitrate the question, pray !
Where Reason dawns and Instinct dies away ?"

F. GARDNER GREENWOOD.

Yorks Daily Post, 19-10-18.

CHURCH OF THE BLIND

THE Church of the Blind at Liverpool has always realised that music itself is a true form of worship. Such a tradition Mr. H. Goss-Custard would be sure to preserve, and thus he and his choir recently gave an oratorio in place of evensong. Spohr's "Last Judgment" is specially fitted for the Advent season, and the presentation of the work had, apart from its good solo and choral qualities, a sense of reverence that would make it unsuitable for one to speak of it merely as a performance. Even in the descriptive, peculiarly-dramatic music of the second part there was a certain restraint, though of definiteness there was always enough. Nothing could have been more effective, for instance, than the sincerity of the unison treatment of "If With All Your Hearts," and there was incisive declamation and a perfect balance of vocal tone in the later ascending phrases of the great chorus "Destroyed is Babylon." But "The Day of Wrath" recitative had possibly the outstanding interest in this impressively-devotional presentation. Its form is that of a dialogue between the solo bass and the organist, and there was a remarkable harmony between the unadorned narrative of the one and the illustrative work of the other in bold, graphic passages.

ON THE RHINE.

SOMETHING MORE THAN GEOGRAPHY.

SUDDENLY and at a leap, as all will perceive from the map, the Rhine once more springs into history. By the terms of the armistice, this most famous stream will cease for a period to be German; Allied forces will occupy the west bank from Switzerland to Holland, while on the east side the territory which will not be occupied will become for the time being neutral. The Germans, therefore, surrender the whole of their principal waterway, their proudest geographical possession, their most romantic river, with all its associations, racial, territorial, and sentimental.

No river in any country bears the same relation to that country as the Rhine does to Germany. No river has been more loudly celebrated in song; in the world there is no natural feature which has been so fervently acclaimed by patriotic tourists. By taking possession of the German Rhine the Allies deliver a necessary strategic blow at their enemy; and something more: for they strike in one comprehensive sweep at the deepest and most fundamental source of German pride. The German race from time immemorial has invested the water of the Rhine with so much glamour that its cup will become to them the bitterest that they have ever tasted. Yet after intoxication it is a wholesome and inexpensive draught. The watch on the Rhine, and beyond it, will be interrupted for a season; the song which celebrates that watch will have become untuned, perhaps for ever. It is a thoroughly spiritual humiliation, a retribution upon the soul for forty years' growing infatuation of mind and brutality of body.

The Rhine has always been one of the great geographical landmarks of Europe. The first representatives of European law and order, the Romans, were never wholly comfortable until they had established themselves on it and beyond it. Mainz, Mayence, Mogontiacum, which we shall occupy, has always been recognized as a commanding

military site; it was one of the first sites on the Rhine where a Roman camp was established; and Castel, which faces it on the east bank, testifies by its name to its Roman origin. Piles from the old wooden bridge across the river may be seen in the local museum among other pre-Christian antiquities. Not far off on the farther side lies Wiesbaden, Aquæ Mattiacæ, with a bath and relics of a more luxurious Roman residence. Cologne everyone knows as a Roman name; Coblenz is the *confluentia* of two rivers; but to enumerate even the Roman sites which will either fall into the hands of the Allies or be neutralised is impossible. Ever since the Cæsars the Rhine has had a full and crowded history; ever since their legionaries began to know it it has been the most important river in Europe. The Rhine has always been civilized, and until lately the source of civilizing influence. It has been the cradle of noble architecture and art; the home of religion, learning, and beneficent invention; the stage and background of a thousand legends and romances; the most northerly as well as one of the richest of the nurseries of the vine; a flourishing industrial area, and a popular holiday resort. All this fair tract, the richest spiritual, as it is almost the richest material, inheritance of Germany, is temporarily to be handed over to the custody of the Allies. To English associations the surrender of the Thames from Lechlade to Gravesend would hardly mean more. And for the wrench done to its susceptibilities the German people has only itself to thank. The Allies have every right to exact what military guarantees they think fit. But the occupation of the Rhine means more than it looks on paper or will be in physical fact. It is well that this should be realized.

Ja der Rhein, er ist durchaus kein
Geographischer Begriff nur,

as one of its poets has said. It is by no means a mere geographical conception, but

an integral part of the German soul. In Homer, Achilles fought and vanquished a river, and it would not be wholly fanciful to claim the same triumph for the Allies. If we could personify the Rhine as an artist might wish to personify it, we should see in it the Germany of the present as well as of the past. In it would be represented every successive manifestation of the German spirit, bad as well as good. For all its majesty, for all its fame, for all its wealth, its waters have of late been not wholly free from an infusion of incongruous sentiment, nor its towered castles from an alloy of pretence, nor its rocks from an outcrop of crude self-assertion. It is by the Rhine above Bingen that the colossal statue of Germania, commemorating the year 1870, stands. This national idol is situated near enough the river for inclusion within the 30-kilometre radius from the bridgehead at Mainz. Its owners need have no fear for its safety.—*The Times*.

oooo

ONE of the smartest replies ever made by a Parliamentary candidate was that credited to Lord Palmerston.

A heckler at one of his meetings had demanded of the statesman, "Will you, if returned, support such and such a measure?"

"Pam" thought for a moment, then said, "I will"—"Hurrah!" broke in the heckler and his pack. "Not," continued "Pam"—at which there were thunderous counter-cheers. "Tell you," he concluded. And the general laughter made him prime favourite at once.

BLIND PEASANT HERO.

THE figure of Ludwig Gandorfer, the blind peasant from South Bavaria, who was mainly responsible for the outbreak of the Munich Revolution, is likely to take its place in the history-books of the future, says the Central News Zurich correspondent. The *Munchner und Augsburger Abend-*

zeitung, in an article dealing with the revolution, says: "The world may well be astounded at the simplicity with which this great event was engineered. Kurt Eisner gave some hint of the facts at the recent festival at the National Theatre, when it was made known for the first time that the real author of the revolution was Ludwig Gandorfer, the blind peasant of



WEST HOUSE, BRIGHTON (recently presented to St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors by the Grocers' Federation).

South Bavaria, who paved the way for the more practical work of Eisner. It was arm-in-arm with the blind peasant that Eisner marched through the streets of Munich on that memorable afternoon, carrying everything before him. The collaboration of the town intellectual with the peasant enthusiast was a symbol of the new democracy which proved irresistible to the people. For days past the agitator had been arousing the people with his rhetoric, while the blind peasant at his side had appealed to their emotions. The time will come when the tradition of the blind peasant of South Bavaria will take its place among the legendary figures of German history."

“ SUNSHINE HOUSE.”

“SUNSHINE HOUSE” ! the very name is an inspiration, and the “Sunshine House” of which we propose to tell is one, the fitness of whose name we hope most assuredly to demonstrate.

There has hitherto been, perhaps, no greater tragedy in life than the tragedy of the blind baby. What is more beautiful than a happy, healthy, lusty child, born into a world where it is surrounded by love and tenderness, who, as the days and years pass by, sees all the wonders of life unfolding before its eager eyes. Think, then, of the child who, through neglect or the accidents that dog the footsteps of some from the cradle to the grave, is born into a world of darkness, who is destined never to see the simplest of those pleasures that the precious gift of sight conveys.

There are many excellent schools and institutions throughout the country where blind children are cared for and taught how to equip themselves to face the terrible handicap of blindness, but up to the present there has been no institution founded to look after the blind child for the first five years of its life. It will be easy to see what this has meant. In some homes the blind

baby is not wanted ! We have to face the stern facts of human nature and remember that it takes all sorts of people to make a world. In other homes, even where the best type of father and mother are to be found, through sheer ignorance of the methods of training a blind child, the parents are unable to bring them up to good habits, with the result that they acquire most objectionable manners, which it is often impossible to eradicate later in life.

This, then, brings us once more to “Sunshine House” — a beautiful house, standing in nine acres of ground on the edge of a spacious common at Chorley Wood, Herts, about twenty miles out of London, and which has been acquired by the National Institute for the Blind as a Home for Blind Babies. The scheme, when once started, was pushed forward rapidly,

thanks mainly to the generosity of Her Grace Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, J. H. Batty, Esq., and certain other friends, who contributed towards the large sum necessary for the acquisition and equipment of the House : Her Majesty the Queen and Her Majesty Queen Alexandra have also generously contributed towards this fine



“SUNSHINE HOUSE” FROM THE ENTRANCE GATE.

monument to human sympathy. The House accommodates twenty-five children, and a visit to it will convince anyone of the need for support in so splendid a cause.

Let us, then, endeavour to convey our own impressions of a first visit to "Sunshine House."

It was a dreary November day. A fine rain was falling as we clambered up on to the beautiful common on the edge of which stands the goal of our objective. It was easy to picture the beauties of the common in summer, with blue sky overhead and the gold of the gorse and the mellow radiance of the sun. But there was little hint of sun or summer as we crossed the common and turned down a wide, gleaming road which eventually brought us to a white gate, upon which were the words "Sunshine House." The gate opened upon a drive which led to a comfortable country house set in the midst of a beautiful garden, open to all the winds of heaven.

But even on that November day we felt that the house was well named. It was, in truth, a trap to catch sunbeams, as any house set on so fair a hill must be. There was little that was suggestive of an institution or asylum—just a pleasant country house with big windows and clean, white frames. And the moment the front door was opened there came from within the House the familiar sounds of children at play.

Imagine a big, airy nursery, in which a happy company of little boys and girls romped. Two sat on a rocking-horse in one corner, while others were playing with dolls

and toys, as children have done from time immemorial, and, crowning wonder, a wee mite in the middle of the room was singing the old nursery rhyme "Three Blind Mice." A lump came to one's throat. For a moment the unutterable pathos of the scene swamped all other impressions. And swift on the heels of the thought, as a tiny hand was thrust into one's own and a merry little voice said "Who are you?" came the realisation of the complete fitness of the name "Sunshine House."

Yes, even on that dark November day one realised that there was sunshine in that

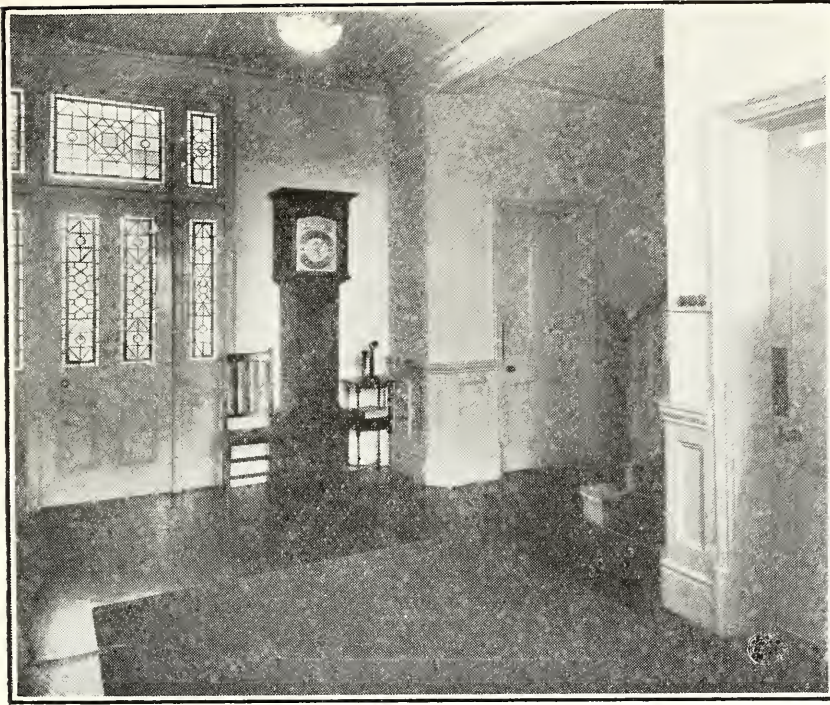
room, that those laughing, romping children, destined for ever to live in a world of darkness, had sunshine in their hearts; that here, in an atmosphere of sympathy and loving-kindness, everything would be done to equip these little victims of circumstances over which they had no control so that they might start their battle with the powers of physical darkness with every available weapon.

And then a tour of the whole House was made, and first impressions were strengthened. The dormitories, with their spick and span white cribs, with a pretty picture painted on them, spotless bath-rooms, a dining-room, with dear wee chairs and tables and tiny plates, cups and saucers, each of these latter adorned, like the beds, by a little coloured picture.

But, you ask, why pictures if the children cannot see? The answer is the key-note to the whole scheme. It is *normality* that reigns here, and if the little ones cannot see



"SUNSHINE HOUSE."—ONE OF THE LITTLE INMATES.



"SUNSHINE HOUSE."—THE ENTRANCE HALL.

the pictures, they can be described to them, just as the pictures on the walls and the pictures on the beds can be described to them. The whole idea of "Sunshine House" is that its tiny inmates should, as far as possible, be treated as ordinary children, not brought up in a false, unreal atmosphere, but amid surroundings that will give them just that start in life which will make them ready later on to enter one of the accredited schools for the blind.

And how complex the initial stages of the education of the little blind child are, does one but devote a few moments' thought to the problem. Think first of the ordinary sighted child whose wondering gaze begins to convey pictures of the thousand-and-one things of everyday life; the colour of the sky, the forms of the trees and animals, the faces of those around it—there is no need to prolong the list—and then think of the tiny mite who is deprived of this natural means for baby comprehension. A simple instance will perhaps convey best the bewildering wonder that passes through the little mind whose eyes are dead to the world about it. A child was told that the milk she drank

came from a cow; a cow was just a word to her, no more. Her only associations with anything liquid were conveyed by the fact that her father (she came of humble parentage) made a hole in a barrel containing beer; therefore, to her, a cow was a round object in which you bored a hole to obtain milk. What a world of pathos underlies the grim humour of this little story!

Another child was asked what she would like for her birthday. "Birthday" was a puzzling word. She was four years old and had never known the happy birthday party of the sighted child. She was asked if she would like chocolates, apples or cakes or sweets, but to all such suggestions she shook her head. At last she said, "I would like a policeman." She might just as

well have said an elephant or a pillar-box or a lamp-post. She had heard the word "policeman," and the sound of it attracted her.

These two simple little illustrations may perhaps give some idea of the tremendous importance of awakening these little minds to an intelligent knowledge of the world about them that they will never see.

There is no more space at our disposal to enlarge further on "Sunshine House" and



"SUNSHINE HOUSE."—THE BABIES' BATH-ROOM.

its little inmates, but we think that enough has been said to show that here we have a cause that will appeal to the hearts of all. We have only to consider how much the precious gift of sight means to us. The tragedy of blindness needs no further emphasis than this simple phrase, yet we can at least bring sunshine into the lives of those little helpless ones who have been born into a world of darkness.

Let us then close on a note that makes its own appeal, and quote the words of the great American poet, James Russell Lowell:—

"There is no true alms which the hand can hold—
He gives nothing but worthless gold
Who gives from a sense of duty ;
But he who gives a slender mite,
And gives to that which is out of sight,
The hand cannot grasp the whole of his alms,
The heart outstretches its eager palms ;
For a God goes with it and makes it store
For the soul that was starving in darkness before."

E. LE B. M.

BLIND TEA AGENTS.

UNDER a special arrangement made with the Tea Controller, the National Institute for the Blind is enabled to advance the extra profits made by blind tea agents. In this connection the After-Care Department of the Institute has paid the sum of £112 3s. 11d. during the twelve weeks from July 11th to October 4th. The advantages of this arrangement will be readily understood. The agents are paid every six weeks, the Institute advancing the money out of its own funds. The money is repaid by the Government every three months. The ordinary profits under the controlled prices are 2d. per lb., and besides this an extra profit of 1½d. per lb. is paid—the profits being thereby nearly doubled. The agents have expressed themselves as extremely grateful for the concessions obtained for them.

OOOO

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

PEARSON HALL.

ONCE again we have occasion to call the attention of our readers to the work of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. All those who are interested in the welfare of the blinded soldiers will be glad to know that this Institute has added to its many good works by opening a residential club for their benefit. This club will be known as Pearson Hall, in honour of Sir Arthur Pearson.

Pearson Hall is located at 186, Beverley Street, Toronto, a spacious private residence, situated in large grounds, formerly occupied by the late Duncan Coulson. It is anticipated that about fifteen blinded soldiers will shortly register for residence there, in addition to which any others who wish to do so may make use of its social facilities.

Pearson Hall was furnished and decorated by the Canadian Women's Association for the Welfare of the Blind in a fashion to do credit to the building, its name, and its purpose.

CHESS.

KING'S SCHOOL, WORCESTER, v.
WORCESTER COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

DESPITE the loss of many of its strongest players, the College Club, in its first match of the season, was able to maintain its unbroken record of successes. The match, which was played on Monday, at the College, over eight boards, resulted in a substantial victory over the King's School. A good standard of play was reached in most of the games, many of which were very keenly contested. Hargreaves had the bad luck to stalemate in a won end-game through having his board disagreeing with that of his opponent.

King's School.		College for the Blind.	
Le Huray	0	V. C. Grimshaw (Capt.)	1
Gouring	½	H. J. Hargreaves	½
Widdrington	0	E. I. Reed	1
Bowstead	1	R. C. Mayes	0
Price	0	G. FitzGibbon	1
Powell	0	H. Coldwell	1
Hill	0	W. R. Wilkinson	1
F. Shorting	0	J. E. Hunt	1
	1½		6½



NORMALITY.

NOW that the great war has come to an end, it is time to look back on its effects in relation to the welfare of the blind and the change of attitude of the general public towards blindness and blind people. The war has cost untold suffering and hardship, and has shown us examples of the most sublime heroism and patience. These qualities have not been shown in the battlefield alone, in the stress and excitement of the fight, but also in the suffering caused by wounds and disablement. Of the many forms that disablement has taken, one of the most tragic and one calling for the greatest courage is undoubtedly that of blindness. Let us picture the case of an Englishman who has been blinded through this war. He has passed through the hospital and St. Dunstan's, and has completed his course of training and settled down to his new vocation. "How wonderfully well he gets about," some of his friends will say. Yes, thanks to his splendid courage, his perseverance, and the fine spirit of independence fostered and encouraged by those responsible for his training, he has learnt to do things for himself and to get about alone in a way he would never have dreamt possible in the days before he lost his sight. His success in overcoming his handicap and the speed with which he has learnt new trades have been a revelation to educators of the blind in this country. "My men are not blind," says Sir Arthur Pearson, "they are simply men without sight." What, then, is the definition of the word blindness; what ideas does the word convey to the average mind? It would seem that the word carries with it a certain stigma: it would seem to connote a certain degree of inferiority, of segregation, of physical and mental helplessness. Thanks to their splendid training, the blinded soldiers will not bear this name: they are not blind, but simply sightless.

But what is to be said of the thirty thousand blind persons who inhabit these islands? It is gratifying to know that the Government is taking active steps to

ameliorate their condition. In the new programme of social reconstruction blind people are to play their part side by side with those who can see. The Government is doing its duty, but blind people should not forget that they owe duties to themselves, to other blind people, and to the community at large. They should endeavour, as far as they can, to remove the stigma that undoubtedly attaches to the word "blind."

Some very good suggestions as to how they may achieve this are contained in a pamphlet by Dr. F. Park Lewis on "What to do for Blind Children," appearing as Pamphlet XIX. in the "Conservation of Vision Series" of the American Medical Association. Dr. Lewis says:—

"The training of the voice is of vital importance. A pleasant, well-modulated voice with a cheerful expression has a winning effect. As the blind are unable to see the faces of those to whom they speak, there is apt to develop an appearance of unresponsiveness, and instead of reflecting back a pleasant expression which one meets on the face of a friend on encountering him, the blind person, not seeing, is apt to show nothing in his facial expression. He could very early learn to reflect his own pleasant feelings and to assume that he is greeted, when he speaks to a friend, with a pleasant smile, and return this frankly instead of the half-smile or the twitching of the corners of the mouth, which so often mars the facial expression of the blind. The features must be controlled as each of the muscles are controlled. When one feels pleased, he must look pleased, he must learn to smile and to speak agreeably, as a matter of training, so vital are the results to all of us."

The need for the above remarks will be at once realised by all who have had much experience of blind persons. They used to be considered abnormal, and if that false idea is to be entirely removed, they should do their utmost to act normally and naturally to the fullest extent of their capacity.

M. D.

COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.

A MEETING in connection with the Midland Counties Association for the Blind was held last month in the County Council Buildings, Stafford, for the purpose of inaugurating an Association for the county.

Lord Dartmouth, who presided, said that there were many movements and institutions for blind people, and it was desired to co-ordinate them, and to bring into co-operation all the different associations in the Midland Counties. At that meeting they desired to inaugurate the Staffordshire Association. He felt confident that they would all agree with that object, and that there would be a desire that in this matter of looking after blind people Staffordshire should not lag behind any other county.

The Bishop of Lichfield said that it was obvious that the claims of the blind must appeal to all Christian people. In dealing with the cases there was need of that common sense which created a good organisation and carried it through. Splendid work had been done at the various schools for the blind throughout the country. It was important that the claims of the children should have attention. As to the older people, it was perfectly clear that there should be no patronage, but that every opportunity should be given them to earn their own living. It was estimated that there were 755 blind persons in the county. It was proposed that ten districts should be formed, each with its secretary or correspondent, and that in each district the blind children and adults should be found out and all possible provision made for them.

Mr. A. J. Story dealt with the work which was being carried on in North Staffordshire, and said that the principle in dealing with the blind was, from start to finish, prevention. He hoped that the County Association would compile a complete register of the blind in the county, and that they would then find out what was necessary to be done. It might be necessary to have a workshop for the blind in Stafford.

Mr. A. L. Lowe, Chairman of the Midland Counties Association, proposed that a Staffordshire Association for the Blind should

be formed, and that Lord Dartmouth should be elected President. This motion was seconded and carried, a representative committee being formed.

"THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE."

MR. RUDYARD KIPLING was invited by the Imperial War Graves Commission to suggest an inscription to be placed on the great war stone to be erected as the central monument in each of the British war cemeteries abroad. He has suggested the words set out above, and the Commission has approved of his recommendation. Mr. Kipling, when submitting his proposal, wrote :—

It was necessary to find words of praise and honour which should be both simple and well known, comprehensible, and of the same value in all tongues, and standing, as far as might be, outside the flux of men and things. After search and consultation with all ranks and many races in our armies and navies, as well as with those who had given their sons, it seemed to me that no single phrase could better that which closes the tribute to "famous men" in Ecclesiasticus :—
"Their name liveth for evermore."

OOOO

TEACHING THE ADULT BLIND TO READ.

SUBMITTING the report at the social and biennial business meeting of the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland Society for Teaching the Adult Blind to Read in their own homes, held on December 12th, in Carrubber's Close Mission Hall, Edinburgh, Mr. M'Kerrell Brown said that during the past year sixty new cases had been dealt with by the Society. Deaths and other removals had reduced the total number of cases from 488 to 480. Grants of £10 each had been paid to eighty-two pensioners from the Jamieson Fund, and to one pensioner on the M'Kinlay Fund. In spite of the fact that the Society had passed through one of its most trying years since its inception in 1857, the report of the work done was, he considered, very satisfactory.

On the motion of the Rev. Alexander Fraser, the report was adopted.

BLIND MUSICIANS.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA, Princess Victoria, Princess Beatrice, and Princess Christian were all present at Queen's Hall on the afternoon of November 29th, at what was surely one of the most remarkable concerts ever given in London. For every member of the little company which sang and played so well to the great delight of a large audience was blind.

In the course of a deeply interesting address, in which he gave a vivid account of the wonders of St. Dunstan's, Sir Arthur Pearson said the performers had been gathered together by Lady Pearson, who had not only trained them but had also arranged for them tours which had been so marked a success that in twelve months they contributed the almost incredible sum of £25,000 to the St. Dunstan's funds, and this, of course, after the artists themselves had been provided with a comfortable living from that engrossing work which the blind so especially need. It was good to learn that when St. Dunstan's comes to an end, as, of course, it must before very many months are over, this excellent little party is to continue its work, devoting the receipts to the National Institute for the Blind.

It consists of nine members. These are Miss Maggie Lister, a soprano, with a fresh and attractive voice; Miss Margaret Maden, an exceptionally good contralto; Mr. William Turner, a light and pleasing tenor; Miss Forde, a second soprano; Mr. Thomas Watson and Mr. Sinclair Logan, two thoroughly capable basses; and Mr. Ronald Gourley, Mr. John Arr, and Mr. H. C. Warrilow, able performers respectively on the piano, the violin, and the organ. And they sang and played a programme in which one was particularly glad to note so much of the music of some of the best of our own composers, and so well did they acquit themselves that it is little wonder that their tours have proved an unqualified success.

OOOO

THE subscription rate for *The Beacon* for Great Britain and the Colonies is 3s. per annum, post free; for foreign countries, 4s. 2d. Single copies can be bought for 3d., or 4d. post free.

LONDON GENERAL BLIND AID SOCIETY.

WE take the following cutting from *Truth*, of December 4th:—

"An enquiry reaches me from Cambridge for information concerning the London General Blind Aid Society, 4a, Melbourne Grove, East Dulwich, London, S.E. It seems that a canvasser who has been at work in Cambridge collecting funds, leaves a leaflet stating that the founder of the Society had previously been the secretary of another society, and in this capacity 'had been in touch with many blind adults whose needs have enlisted his warmest sympathy.' This is true. Mr. Toller Holford, the organiser and founder, was previously connected with Blackburn's charity-mongering enterprise. So also was Miss F. E. Halling-Clarke, the secretary, and the treasurer, the Rev. J. H. Coulson. The latter gentleman is only 'Rev.' by courtesy, by virtue of officiating as a local preacher in Baptist Chapels, an occupation which he varies at times by the writing of begging letters, to which his wife, who acts as collector to the society, is also addicted.

"The leaflet goes on to state that 'beyond working expenses and small salaries to the secretary and organiser . . . all moneys subscribed to the Society will be devoted in money and in kind to the adult blind community generally.' Presumably the working expenses include the 10s. weekly paid to the collectors, together with the 5s. in the £ commission they receive on their takings. In view of these facts, and in view of the further fact that what money is left is given in small weekly doles which can be of no possible lasting benefit to the recipients, I certainly should not subscribe to the London General Blind Aid Society myself, and I would strongly recommend no one else to do so."

OOOO

"PAPA," said a small boy the other day, "are not sailors very small men?"

"No, my dear," answered the father. "Pray, what leads you to suppose such a thing?"

"Because," replied the young idea, smartly, "I read the other day of a sailor going to sleep in his watch."

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

AT the second of this season's Monthly Concerts, given in the Armitage Hall on Tuesday, November 19th, at six o'clock : a conspicuous feature was Chamber music : a particularly delightful form of musical expression, though which the ordinary Concert goer, perhaps for lack of opportunity, has not yet learnt to fully appreciate. The concerted number consisted of two movements from the String Quartette in D and three Quartettes by Russian composers. All were well rendered and, we were glad to note, much appreciated. Among the instrumental solos may be especially mentioned "Romance," by Max Brook, most expressively played by Miss Chitty, who gave as an encore Saint-Saens ever welcome "The Swan." The instrumental part of the programme was varied by songs by Dvorak, Roger Quilter, etc., and at the end of the Concert, as an expression of the patriotic spirit of the time, Elgar's "Land of Hope and Glory" was given with the piano and organ, Mr. Littlewood taking the solo, and the chorus being enthusiastically sung by the audience. The artistes who contributed to the programme were as follows :—Miss Monique Poole, 1st Violin ; Miss Donne, 2nd Violin ; Miss Stewart, Viola ; Miss Chitty, 'Cello ; Miss Helen Wilson, Vocalist ; Miss Ann King, Accompanist.

On December 5th, at 1.15 p.m, Mr. H. G. Ley, Organist of Christ Church Cathedral,

Oxford, gave a very attractive organ recital in the Armitage Hall, his manipulation of the organ being most masterly and the delicacy of its effects, especially in the Bach numbers, delighting his audience. In our opinion, Mr. Ley (three albums of whose songs have been published by the National Institute) is one of the first organists in this country, for his power of expression is quite remarkable ; the building up and the melting away of the organ being one of the most imperceptibly gradual things we have ever heard. In addition to Bach numbers, the programme included César Franck's very fine Chorale in A Minor and two of Parry's Choral Preludes.

The announcement that Dr. Walford Davies's Male Choir would provide the programme for the third of our Monthly Concerts, attracted a large attendance, and anticipations of spending an enjoyable evening were entirely fulfilled. The first part of the programme was chiefly devoted to a foretaste of Christmas, and among the Carols sung, a new and quite interestingly harmonised one by Walford Davies,

"As with Gladness," deserves special mention. Folk songs found a place later, among which may be noted "The Tree was in the Wood," one of the accumulating variety which always prove amusing as well as attractive. A quiet round, "Twine Gentle Evergreen," found in Stainer's Book of 100 Rounds, was most delightfully rendered by three of the Temple Church Choir Boys, and the programme was brought to an end by an admirable rendering of that ever fresh Carol "Non Nobis Domine," by Byrde.



BLINDED SOLDIERS SNOWBALLING.

OUR COMING AIR SERVICE.

A PARLIAMENTARY Paper which will become historic has just been published. It is the Report of the Civil Aerial Transport Committee.

The Committee, appointed by the Government in May, 1917, with Lord Northcliffe as Chairman, consisted of practically all our experts in aeronautics.

Three main types of aircraft will be placed almost at once upon our aerial highways. First is the large passenger machine, seating 20 or more people in perfect comfort and driven by engines of nearly 2,000 horse-power. These will travel, say between London and Paris, at 100 miles an hour.

Then there is the express air mail machine. At 170 miles an hour, this would take a letter from London to Paris in an hour and a half. The third type of machine is the touring craft which will carry a pilot and three or four passengers with as much comfort as is provided in a modern touring motor-car. All these machines are now being made ready. We are promised, indeed, a gradual growth of air-borne traffic until the whole of the high-speed transport of the world goes by way of the air.

As to air-stations. On a fine day a pilot who flies from London to Paris needs practically no organisation. He has map and compass and, by observation of landmarks, he can correct at once any error in his course. Organisation and safeguard are, however, vital where there are fog, mist or heavy cloud. A great deal of aerial mail-carrying, too, will have to be done at night.

The need will thus arise for the careful organisation of aerial routes, with chains of alighting grounds along them which will have identifying marks that can be seen from a high altitude by day, and bearing night signs which can be illuminated brightly.

Three types of air-stations will be established. First, there will be main aerodromes in the great cities. Second, subsidiary aerodromes on the outskirts of provincial

towns. Then, acting as links between these two will be a series of emergency alighting grounds on which a pilot, whose engine fails, will be able to make a safe landing. Aerial tourists will use these emergency grounds for housing their machines or obtaining fuel supplies, just as motorists use garages along a road. Naturally there must be Rules of the Air Road. There should be no difficulty in dividing the traffic streams. The use of wireless should make collisions unlikely. In fog, machines can rise above the fog-belt into clear air and proceed at normal speeds without any risk of collision. Flying rules and signs would have to be the same all over the world.

There must be weather observing and recording stations along the aerial routes. Also a careful study of winds at high altitudes. Rules, too, as to trespass or damage caused to property will have to be drawn up. All machines will be registered and will carry prominently displayed identifying numbers. In the matter of cost of an air-service—if airways be not well patronised—if traffic fluctuates very greatly, then fares must be always very high. Still, with even a moderate traffic it should be possible to carry passengers remuneratively at about 6d. a mile—a total of £6 5s. for a journey, say, London to Paris—of 250 miles. This would be twice one normal first-class railway fare. The journey would be made in 2½ or 3 hours as against 7 or 8 by land or sea.

Express air-borne letters between London and Paris will be charged, at first, at the rate of 2s. 6d. per ½-oz. On the London and Glasgow route it should be possible to carry letters profitably at 4d. or 6d.

A very frequent passenger service is anticipated. A half-hourly service between London and Birmingham, London and Manchester and other cities might be arranged. Scientific opinion sees no difficulty in securing a maximum air-speed of 240 miles an hour.

L. D.

PIANO RECITALS AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY.

THOUGH the monthly piano recitals at the National Library (18, Tufton Street, Westminster) are advertised in Braille magazines, it is evident that they are not yet sufficiently widely known, so some further particulars with regard to them are sure to be welcome. Their chief object is to bring forward the music transcribing at the Library and that published by the National Institute.

The programmes therefore include not only different pieces likely to be of special value to the recitalist, but also a considerable amount of easy music suitable for teaching. For instance, one recital included a selection from Chaminade's *Album Des Enfants*, while another provided a good insight into the usefulness of Schumann's *Album for the Young*. As a contrast to these, several of Debussy's pieces, including some of the very difficult ones like "The Gold Fish," have been played, and from time to time the programme has been varied by piano duets, songs, and violin pieces.

The fare provided on Tuesday, December 10th, while most interesting to the listener, would act as an incentive to performance only to the most ambitious pianists, for it comprised Franck's *Violin Sonata in A* (the violin part being played by Mr. Whitfield), John Ireland's *Ragamuffin*, and Brahms's *Capriccio in B minor*.

Mr. Spanner cordially welcomes suggestions as to what should be played (and incidentally also what he should transcribe), and as these recitals are undertaken solely to be of service to blind musicians, it is to be hoped that such an excellent scheme will receive greater encouragement by a larger attendance—I will not say by a fuller measure of appreciation—for those who do attend evidently much enjoy the programmes provided.

The next recital will take place on Tuesday, January 14th, at seven o'clock.

oooo

DEAR OLD LADY: "So you're on a mine-sweeper, are you? And where do you sweep mines?"

CAUTIOUS TAR: "Oh, just round the tops of 'em, lady; where the dust settles."

HOW THE BLIND VOTED

BY permission of the Local Government Board the sightless heroes of St. Dunstan's Hostel for the Blind in Regent's Park were treated as absent service voters, in spite of the fact that they are discharged men.

Application was made to the constituencies to which they belonged for ballot papers for 600 men. About 60 per cent., however, were found to be unregistered, through having moved about.

The remainder received their ballot papers by post.

The adjutant of St. Dunstan's described to the *Evening News* the manner in which the blind fighters went to the poll.

"They came into my room," he said, "one at a time. The ballot paper was placed on a table and two fingers of the man's left hand were placed on the lines between the candidates' names—one finger on each line (that is to say, where there were three candidates. If only two candidates, the man only needed to use one finger).

"He was told that above his finger was the name of 'Smith,' the Coalition candidate; between his fingers that of 'Jones,' the Liberal; and underneath his other finger the name of 'Robinson,' the Labour candidate.

"I then read from *The Times* an account setting forth the views and programme of each candidate, and the man then made a cross with a pencil in his right hand opposite the name of the candidate he favoured. He placed the ballot paper in an envelope and sealed it.

"Afterwards he signed a form, which I witnessed."

oooo

LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

SUITABLE premises for the Northern Branch Library for the Blind have been presented to the National Library by the trustees of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. The building is in St. John's Street, Deansgate, Manchester, whence it is intended to develop the work of supplying the blind readers of the northern counties with Braille and Moon type books and form an intellectual centre.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—No. 26.

FEBRUARY, 1919.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

EDITORIAL.



THE employment of blind teachers of the blind in the case of manual work is much to be recommended, and has proved most successful. The inexperienced sighted teacher finds himself confronted by great difficulties in giving manual instruction to the blind. He cannot proceed on his accustomed lines, and bid the pupil watch him as he demonstrates the work. The blind pupil has to proceed by touch, and only the teacher who is obliged to proceed in like manner can realize the exact difficulties which this entails. Furthermore, it is of inestimable help and comfort to the blind worker to feel that the person who is instructing him has had to undergo the identical difficulties that he is himself experiencing at every turn. These difficulties are left to the sighted teacher's imagination, and however vivid and sympathetic this imagination may be, it can never replace the reality of personal experience. Everyone who has had experience in any branch of teaching knows how much easier it is to explain lucidly what one has oneself had difficulty in mastering, and how much greater an impression is then made. Fellow-feeling makes us not only "wondrous kind," but also "wondrous wise." And if this is the case when dealing with sighted scholars, how much more must it apply to those whose loss of sight renders them especially sensitive and responsive to the slightest touch of sympathetic understanding. Of course, the sighted teacher becomes more

and more accustomed to his task as time goes on, and gradually he will find out many ways of conveying knowledge to his pupils, but on the whole it has been found that the blind pupil places far more confidence in his blind instructor, because he feels that the latter is dealing with him on ground which is common to both. He has "felt" out the best way to do things, whilst the sighted teacher has always "looked out" for everything. Over and over again it has been observed that pupils who have been inclined to disagree with the methods of a sighted teacher follow those of the blind instructor with sustained interest and appreciation.

Of course, a certain amount of sighted supervision and criticism is not only desirable, but in some cases absolutely necessary—in a greater or less degree, according to the nature of the work. Also, in the performance of many processes sight is needed at certain stages of the work. But as regards the actual giving of manual instruction, and the qualifications of the teacher so employed, blindness stands second only to competence. In other words, it is of the utmost importance that those of us who are not handicapped by the loss of sight must for ever keep before us the need for proving to the blind that we do realise loss of sight need not mean in any sense a loss of mentality. We must, as far as lies in our power, not merely try to enter into the spirit of sympathetic co-operation with those of our fellow-beings who are so grievously handicapped, we must also help them to prove by their own acceptance of that co-operation that the only *blind* people in the world are the unregenerates who *won't* see.

"LIGHT IN DARKNESS."

IN the January number of *The Beacon* mention was made of the work which is being carried on at the Church Missionary Society's Schools for the Blind at Palamcottah, in Southern India.

In connection with these schools, we would like to draw attention to the "Light in Darkness" Birthday League, which was started about fourteen years ago. This League was originally intended for sighted members only, but a small British Blind Branch was formed by a few blind persons, who wished to express their gratitude for the enjoyment of manifold benefits, both spiritual and temporal, which they desired to share with the blind in India. The members have kept one child in the school ever since the inception of this branch.

The Honorary Secretary (Miss Hilda E. Boord) would be glad to welcome and give details of the work to any intending members. She hopes that very soon it will be possible to adopt a second child, but before this can take place it is imperative that new members should join the Birthday League.

It is felt that this work is a splendid thank-offering to those brave Indian soldiers who have lost their sight for our sake in the Great War.

OOOO

AT the winter examinations of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, held last month in Newcastle, eleven pupils from the Royal Victoria School for the Blind were examined in pianoforte, and all passed, six with distinction and three with honours. During the last fifteen years 196 blind pupils have been presented at these examinations, and of these 187 have passed, twenty-one with honours, thirty-eight with distinction, and nine failed.—*Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, January 11th, 1919.

OOOO

ON Friday, February 14th, at six o'clock, an organ recital will be given in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute by Mr. Hollins, and all those reading this notice are cordially invited to be present and to bring their friends.

THE BEST HOWLERS.

SOME excellent howlers have been received in a competition for the best collection, and are quoted in the *University Correspondent* as follows :—

"Martin Luther was nailed to the church door of Wittenberg for selling papal indulgences."

"Chicago is a large town at the bottom of Lake Michigan."

"The Menai Straits are crossed by a tubercular bridge."

"Shakespeare ran away to London and worked outside a picture palace."

"The masculine of heroine is kipper."

"To find the number of square feet in a room you multiply the room by the number of feet. The product is the result."

"The side in front of the biggest angle is called the hypophosphate."

"Simon de Montfort formed what was known as the Mad Parliament—it was something the same as it is at the present day."

"The X-rays are produced when the sun's rays cross each other."

"Avogadro's Law is as to whether a molecule consists of 1, 2, or 3 atoms. If 1 it is called a nomad, if 2 a dryad, and so on."

"Vivax apium : The vivacity of the apes."

"Vis umbilica : A naval force."

"Elle le baisa sur le front : She lowered him on to his head."

"The Anzacs are a race of South American savages."

"O.B.E. stands for observation balloon erector."

"The heirloom is something like a carpet loom, but is used to make fringe nets."

"The German plenipotentiaries were blindfolded and then directed to Foch's house."

"After sitting up all night the German delegates decided to sing at 5 a.m."

OOOO

THE subscription rate for *The Beacon* for Great Britain and the Colonies is 3s. per annum, post free ; for foreign countries, 4s. 2d. Single copies can be bought for 3d., or 4d. post free.

GLASGOW ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

SIR RICHARD LODGE'S REPORT.

PROFESSOR SIR RICHARD LODGE, of Edinburgh University, who at the request of the directors of the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, recently investigated certain charges which had been made by the Glasgow Branch of the National League of the Blind against the managers and superintendent of the institution, has issued his report. The president and the organiser of the Glasgow Branch of the League wrote to Sir Richard Lodge on January 6, informing him that they and their members would refuse to bring evidence or to take any part in the investigation, mainly on the ground that they had not been consulted in the choice of an investigator. That refusal, Sir Richard Lodge states, crippled his powers, and he was compelled to limit his inquiry to an investigation of the various records of the institution and of the correspondence and press reports relating to current and past controversies and to an inspection of the various industrial departments of the asylum. That procedure was a very inadequate substitute for the semi-judicial investigation which had been contemplated, and his report could not be as authoritative and thoroughgoing as he had hoped to make it.

The demands put forward by the Glasgow Branch of the League were (1) for the resignation of the superintendent, and (2) for the presence of representatives from the organised blind workers on the Board of Management. These demands were based upon (1) a number of charges and assertions against the superintendent, and (2) the alleged indifference of the present board and their excessive submission to the superintendent's guidance. The accusation of incompetence, Sir Richard Lodge states, is strikingly contradicted by the progress which has been made in all the industrial departments of the asylum since the present superintendent came into office, and by a comparison between the Glasgow Royal Asylum and any institution in the country which is

carrying on similar work among the blind. It is difficult to imagine any evidence which would justify the assertion that the superintendent is incompetent. As to the more personal accusations against that official, Sir Richard states that owing to lack of evidence it is impossible for him to estimate either the strength or weakness of the charges. "If the charges are well founded," the report continues, "it is difficult to understand how the superintendent has been allowed to hold office so long, or how he came to be selected to serve on the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind and on the Scottish Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind. No difference of opinion as to the merits or demerits of particular proposals before these committees could justify such extreme and strongly worded accusations."

With regard to the demand for the direct representation of the workers on the Board of Management, Sir Richard Lodge points out that the Asylum deals with charitable funds as well as with industrial employment, and that double function renders it impossible for the managers to deal with the League of the Blind as directors of a normal business might deal with a trades union. The beneficiaries under a charitable fund could hardly claim a voice in the distribution of that fund among themselves. On the business side it might be possible and desirable to have a consultative committee on which the workers were represented. An experiment in that direction had been made, and the fact that it had not from the first been a complete success should not lead to its premature abandonment. As to complaints against the Board of Management, Sir Richard Lodge suggests that the composition and method of selecting the Board might with advantage be changed, and that a former proposal to obtain a new constitution by a Provisional Order should be revived and carried out. The report, Sir Richard Lodge concluded,

was necessarily an imperfect one, and was not likely to satisfy the League of the Blind or to carry assured conviction to the interested public. While he regretted that the League refused to submit evidence, he had some sympathy with their request to have a voice in the selection of an investigator. As the matter had gone so far that outside investigation had been agreed to, it seemed desirable that it should be as efficient as possible. He therefore strongly urged that his report should be regarded as an interim report, based solely upon the unilateral information at his disposal, and that steps should be taken to secure a final settlement by the selection of an impartial person who would be acceptable to both parties, or who would be able to balance their respective contentions as he had not been able to do.

BLIND GIRL'S SUCCESS.

OUR readers will be interested to hear that at the Central Foundation School, Spital Square, Bishopsgate, an annual prize known as the "William Rodgers" Prize, has this year been awarded to a blind student, Miss Sadie Isaacs, of 4, Pedley Street, Bethnal Green. Miss Isaacs was the recipient of seventeen volumes of Shakespeare's and Thackeray's works, in Braille type. There are no other blind pupils in the school—in fact, Miss Isaacs is said to be the only blind girl who is receiving her education together with sighted scholars. She does her lessons on a typewriter, and uses Braille lesson-books. She received her first Braille lessons at Morning Lane School, Hackney. In 1915, while at the Elm Court Blind School, Miss Isaacs won the first principal prize in the annual R.S.P.C.A. competition for an essay on "Man's Duty Towards Animals." On that occasion there were 169,000 competitors. In 1916, a Dickens Fellowship Prize was awarded to her.

Miss Isaacs, who is seventeen years old, is to be warmly congratulated upon her recent success. Her future career will be watched with much interest by all. The National Institute for the Blind has taken a lively and practical interest in Miss Isaacs' career.

OOOO

CUSTOMER (looking at soiled bill of fare) :
"That's a splendid idea, waiter. Samples of the different dishes glued to the menu!"

INSTITUTIONS FOR THE BLIND.

THE Local Government Board have published a list of institutions, societies and agencies for the blind in England and Wales which have been approved by them on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind. The list includes only those institutions, etc., which are in part at least maintained by charitable contributions, and it is suggested that subscriptions should only be given to such institutions, etc., as have been approved. The list is made up to December 31st, 1918, and will be subject to annual revision.

The Local Government Board will be prepared to inform any interested members of the public whether any additional institution has been approved in the interval between the publication of lists. The present list has been put on sale, and can be obtained either directly or through any bookseller from his Majesty's Stationery Office, at the following addresses: — Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W. 1; 37, Peter Street, Manchester; and 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff. (Price, 1d.)

OOOO

THE Committee of the Moulmein School for Blind Burmese speaking boys wish to procure the services of a qualified Englishman, blind or otherwise, to act as Principal of the School. The Committee include Government officials, representatives of the American Baptist Mission and the Church of England Mission in Moulmein. The salary offered is 200 rupees per month (£13 6s. 8d.). Passage from England would be free. Free quarters will be provided, and preference will be given a man possessed of initiative and who is able to develop the industrial side of the work.

The School includes both Christians and Buddhists, though the Committee are naturally anxious to secure a Principal who is in sympathy with the Christian aspect of the work.

Applications should be made to the Rev. D. C. Atwool, Honorary Secretary and Superintendent, School for the Blind, Moulmein, Burma.

FORMATION OF LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

BY BEN PURSE.

IT is a matter of the greatest concern to all those whose services are necessary in contributing to the solution of the many difficult problems associated with the education, employment and maintenance of the Blind, that the organisation we employ should not only be comprehensive, but that the great instrument should be thoroughly efficient in all its parts. Just as every screw is essential to the completion of the machine, so is it not less important that every phase of our work should bear relative scientific relationship to every other activity in the same sphere, if the very best results for which we are each striving are to be attained.

When the various Unions of societies and agencies for the Blind were formed, the hope and belief was cherished by many well-intentioned people that they would completely metamorphose the whole situation, and give to the solution of our difficulties that scientific treatment which reason demanded. If some disappointment has ensued, at least we know quite definitely what the weaknesses are, and all the facts go to indicate that there is a very ardent desire to make such radical amendment as is necessary to eliminate the old defects.

In passing to the more vital issues with which this article is concerned, we need only say that the Unions could not be efficient because they do not possess anything approaching permanent financial stability. They are creations subject to the good-will of a few well-disposed individuals or organisations. Hence they lack the virility and dynamic power which can alone come from conscious strength and the power to initiate independence of action.

The broader basis of representation will also increase the utilitarian value of such agencies, for it must be obvious that if problems of great moment and magnitude are to be tackled and ultimately solved, this can best be accomplished by a frank discussion of every apparently conflicting interest. By resorting to a process of ostracism such as we have sometimes witnessed, those who have been guilty of fostering such a policy have all unconsciously added strength to the view-point they desired to neutralise.

If there are unpleasant people or associations operating within the sphere of our activities, it is surely better to have them under surveillance rather than permitting them to run riot and "queer every pitch?" If they are really disagreeable people we should find some joy in teaching them the rudiments of good manners and good citizenship, even though they may sometimes have graduated at a "varsity." If, in like manner, the views of a particular society do not commend themselves to us, by all means let us bring them within the focus of legitimate discussion, and either correct their point of view or learn to swallow our own insensate pride, and submit to be corrected.

The Local Government Board, acting on the advice of the Central Advisory Committee, has decided to set up what are termed "Local Advisory Committees" for strictly defined areas. Such Committees will advise on all matters having reference to the proper care of the Blind in every area. Of course, they can have no executive functions, their specific business being to report on the properly ascertained needs of every locality, and if necessary, they are to be prepared to submit schemes, and generally to co-ordinate all activities on behalf of the Blind in their locality.

The Unions, or County Associations, are being taken as the basis of organisation, though the principle of representation is being broadened so as to bring into the federations all interests connected with the Blind. A more wholesome feature of such administration is to include direct representation from the Blind Workers' trade union, and other persons drawn from the Blind community. It is understood, moreover, that the financial status of these Committees will be assured, and with this security will disappear most of the disadvantages which have tended to stultify the operations of the old Unions.

When these new creations have taken firm root, there is good reason to believe that every phase of the problem with which we are familiar will be treated with promptitude and efficiency. There will doubtless be

some disappointments to encounter, much to revise, and more to assimilate, but if in the processes through which we are destined to pass, we are able clearly to visualise the approach of a kindlier and more humanitarian era, we can well afford to exercise the virtue of patience. If we know, too, that poverty and all its concomitant disadvantages are yielding pride of place to a more equitable, more rational, concept, we are still further stimulated to "fight the good fight" with courage and determination.

COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

ONE of the finest institutions in the country is the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind at Norwood. The history of this college is known to most of us. It is a history of which everyone who has helped in its making has cause to feel proud. Its principal is Mr. Guy Campbell, whose father helped to found the college. It requires no effort of the imagination to realise what it means to have taken in hand the education of hundreds of sightless children, and equipped them to become useful citizens, self-dependent and self-supporting. This is what the Normal College has done and is doing, sending out into the world every year young men and young women to earn their own livelihood, thanks to a thoroughly sound and up-to-date training, as organists and teachers of music, school and home teachers, typists, and tuners, as well as in various other business capacities.

In one, it is a kindergarten, an elementary school, a training college, a conservatoire of music, and a school of pianoforte tuning. And the institution can now plume itself upon having enabled 116 blind organists and teachers of music, nearly 250 pianoforte tuners, and some fifty school teachers—not to mention several former students who have entered the Church or qualified for work in offices—to earn a modest competence sufficient for their needs, and to compete successfully in the struggle for life on almost equal terms with their fellow-citizens not denied the blessings of sight.

Here, truly, is a fine record upon which it cannot be necessary to dwell in advocacy

of the school's claims for the widest popular sympathy and support.

In music the results have been extraordinarily gratifying—an important point to note when it is remembered that, prior to the foundation of the college, the musical instruction of the blind in this country was mainly of the most superficial character. At Norwood the training given in various branches of the art is of the most thorough description, as may be gathered from the names of the teaching staff, including as it does such well-known musicians as Mr. Stewart Macpherson and Mr. H. L. Balfour. In connection with this very important side of the work carried on, it is of interest to recall that even in its early days the college sent out concert parties to tour the provinces, while in the 'eighties several of its students crossed the Atlantic and gave performances in some of the leading cities of America that called forth the highest enthusiasm. And in London there are not a few of us who still recall concerts whereat, in the old St. James' Hall, the Albert Hall, and elsewhere, the college students showed their quality as singers and players under Manns, Parry, Mackenzie, Stanford, and other conductors.

In passing, mention has been made of the finely-equipped piano-tuning school which is now so valuable a feature in the scheme of the college. A special building in the grounds is devoted exclusively to that branch of the curriculum, some forty-seven students now undergoing the four years' course required to make them thoroughly efficient tuners.

The principles and methods of education so successfully established in every department of the institution at Norwood have spread far and wide, and have been adopted, not only in schools for the blind throughout the United Kingdom, but at many similar institutions founded overseas—in the United States, South Africa, India, China, and Japan—by graduates of the college.

oooo

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

AN ISLAND NIGHT'S PILGRIMAGE.

BY HESTER MARSHALL.

IN view of the development of carol singing all over the country last Christmas, we have pleasure in publishing the following little account of a carol party, singing on behalf of the National Carol League:—

"Half-past six at the blacksmith's; everyone to bring his own lantern and book."

The forge is shuttered and deserted; the brisk south-west wind that carried its last spark up to heaven is now busily blowing clouds off the young moon's face. The smith himself slips out from a side-door to join our muffled, great-coated party; down the village come more lanterns, bobbing and hurrying. A few greetings, a few small jokes, a little laughter, and the cheerful conspiracy makes ready.

"Are we all here?"

"Tom's not come yet, miss. Been threshing all day over at Old Barn; he'll be a bit late." Tom, of course, must be waited for; he is our chief tenor, and there can be no carol party without him; it would be like an apple without a core. For him, as for many of us, to-night's work means a lengthening of a long tiring day, instead of an easeful

stretching by the fireside. But no one considers such a thing:

"This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface,"

as we shall presently sing you.

With the belated Tom hurrying hot-foot in the rear, and a straggler or two on bicycles, we move off into the night. Our leader, brisk and business-like, carries a sheaf of

music and a torch that is to be beacon and bâton in one; the girls follow her in linked twos and threes; the boys, coming last, walk through all the puddles, and fall into the dykes on purpose. One, slightly above himself because the collecting-box has been given into his care, enlivens the proceedings by imitations of speakers at a recent election meeting, in what he takes to be the voice and style of the idle rich. . . . And ahead, a little crowd gathers round the bath-chair



A CHRISTMAS CAROL PARTY.

in which our *basso profundo* (who will never again tramp the countryside) makes his round with us, pushed by willing hands. The rear-light on John Miller's chair is hardly needed; you could tell your bearings by it on the darkest night by reason of the laughter that sounds there—

John's own laugh as loud as any, even when a too eager charioteer takes a ratty bit of road at the gallop, and with a shout of "Make way for the Rolls-Royce" all but pitches him over the bank. Our humour is not very subtle.

Not one pilgrimage alone must we make, but many; and the Christmas moon is kind to us through all. It is a time of journeying: shepherds and wise men travelled in the winter dark, King Wenceslas trudged by night to his labour of love by St. Agnes' Fountain. Some of us, as we go, may well think of these, and give thanks for a green season, since we have no saintly footsteps ready warmed for our treading. There are puddles instead, each one a little lake of silver at our feet; there is a great lamp above us that presently puts our lanterns to shame, so that we may read our carol books by its shining. To the right of us a restless sighing comes in from the sea, to our left a great shoulder of down-land edges its way up to Charles' Wain; from the folds under its shelter come sad little cries of early lambs new to the world this night, and liking it not. . . . So on to the hollow under the great bank of Ladylands; here we tell to the shuttered windows of a Jacobean farm how

"It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old."

It is mysterious and wonderful, that great grey house in deep shadow, as if a curse had shut it out from the light by night and day. The grass court strikes chilly, and no friendly hand lifts the blind so that we may know there are those inside who hear. We are glad to swing down again into Shorwell, where lamps are set in windows for our coming, and groups of listeners steal up all round us as we stand in the village street. It is like a stage setting; those shadowy figures coming up behind, and we in front, in the limelight, singing . . . However, the sense of unreality is soon dispelled; an emissary comes out from the grocer's shop with a substantial offering in coin, and a packet of chocolate "to divide among the ladies." So poetry turns to prose, and the stage chorus departs, munching gratefully, on a muddy tramp round outlying farms.

Many nights bring many adventures. There is a stand at Marsh Green (a stand practically in a duck-pond), where the wind blows from so many parts at once that it is hard so to arrange the choir that "Silver

Lamps" shall not be extinguished or "Good King Wenceslas" blown incontinently into the sea. There is a furtive creeping all round an apparently deserted cottage to find out if any light is within; for it is most depressing to sing with blank windows yawning in your very face. And there is a disconcerting moment at the Great House, when on the heels of our last and sweetest carol follows the raucous clang of the dinner gong. Never have we been so completely, so finally shown our place; no Treasury notes handed out by the butler could entirely bridge that gulf.

Sometimes the way lies in the low lanes, ankle-deep in mud, but lovely with the thorn hedges making patterns against the night sky, and a fresh wet scent coming up from the hart's-tongue fern and all the other ridiculously green things that never *will* realise, in these Island Decembers, that we are in the depths of winter. Sometimes there is a stiffer climb (with all hands to John Miller's chair), up the chalk cutting that we call Brighstone Shute, over the great down that looks from the Solent to the further sea; through Westover woods down to Calbourne.

Or, again, we follow the line under Brooke Down, holding to the high road that is never very far from the sea; this, at any rate for the homeward journey, is more grateful to tired feet than fields and byways. For we are foot-weary, there is no hiding it, when the time comes to turn; and no one has much voice left, after singing over thirty carols at different doors. They are the lucky ones, who drop off into their homes on the near outskirts of our own village; but the rest march on cheerfully, calling rather hoarse "Good-nights," and reminders of our next assembling at church or forge or "Cass's Corner." For we remember, in these silent winter nights, the men of St. Dunstan's for whom we work; men of our own soil, Islanders and "overners," men of the West and the North, who never again shall see the bracken red on Rowdown, or the apples ripe in Mendip orchards, or the low sun dropping behind the Langdale Pikes.

OOOO

MAGISTRATE: "You can take your choice—twenty-one shillings or ten days."

PRISONER (still in a foggy condition): "I'll take the money, your worship."

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE BARCLAY WORKSHOP FOR BLIND WOMEN.

IT is always cheering and gratifying to hear of the advance and extension of an institution founded in a good cause, and particularly must this be so when it has for its object the welfare of the blind.

It is, therefore, with very real pleasure that I am able to set forth in this article the splendid progress made by the workers in the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, at 233, Edgware Road, W.

At these premises the truly wonderful work of weaving goes on in leaps and bounds.

The workshop was started in 1905, to give employment to women trained at the Barclay Home for Blind and Partially Blind Girls, at Brighton, an institution where girls handicapped by loss of sight are taught Braille reading and writing, and several handicrafts, including weaving and hand and machine knitting.

There are usually about one hundred girls in the various departments, and when proficient many of them are sent on to the Barclay Workshop to earn a livelihood.

At the present time there are nineteen women at the workshop—fifteen weavers, one sewer, and three knitters. One blind worker has recently left the workshop and obtained employment in an establishment which engages sighted weavers. This is a fact gratifying to note, since it emphasises the benefit to be derived from training the blind in occupations and handicrafts which enable them to take their places side by side with their sighted fellows, thus removing the sensitive shrinking and reserve that too often accompanies a knowledge that they are "not as other men."

At an exhibition recently held in Chelsea I had the privilege of examining various specimens of the beautiful and really remarkable materials turned out by the blind weavers of the Barclay Workshop.

Serges, tweeds, hopsacks, linen, lustrine, cotton, etc., in pleasing shades and enduring quality, were on show in abundance.

Added to these were blouses, studio aprons, overalls, etc., all fashioned from the delicate fabric made on looms manipulated by girls, of whom many have been blind from birth, and of whom none have ever seen the machines for which they are responsible or the materials they weave.

Particularly fascinating were the checked tablecloths and dinner-napkins in blue, pink, gold, or red, on a white ground, which the far-sighted staff at the workshop had the happy idea to institute as a new material for the blind girls to weave during the war. So useful and dainty did these prove that the sale more than justified the experiment.

Fingering the fine serges and soft linens, one deemed it almost incredible that this thing could be, and following the thought came a deep thankfulness that this possibility had been brought about by the untiring and devoted efforts of those who make it their business in life to forward the welfare and insure the independent livelihood of those who would otherwise lead darkened and helpless lives.

With so much zeal in its organization, and such cheery and unceasing efforts from its blind workers, it is not surprising that the Barclay Workshop has progressed so satisfactorily, that it is on the eve of undertaking a considerable extension of its premises.

By the aid of several generous donations, and still more by its own strenuous efforts, the institution is about to open a showroom and enlarged workshop (including kitchen, and dining-room for the workers) at 21, Crawford Street, Bryanston Square, W.

It must not be supposed that the lack of a show-room has hitherto prevented the energetic organisers of this institution from displaying the wonderful materials produced in the workshop.

By the kindness of several warm-hearted ladies, private houses have been lent for the

purpose of holding exhibitions of the goods, at one of which H.R.H. Princess Beatrice and H.H. Princess Marie Louise paid a visit and bought material, while Queen Mary herself has more than once been a purchaser.

The annual report for 1917-1918 shows a gratifying increase in the output and sales, while the workers have twice recently received a substantial rise in wages to enable them to meet the ever advancing cost of living.

When one consults the price-list of the materials produced in the Barclay Workshop, and realises how well they compare with modern prices in West-end shops, one is not surprised at the flourishing condition of the concern, nor to learn that their financial position has justified the further development now on the eve of completion.

And all this has been brought about in the face of tremendous difficulties, caused by the war, such as the impossibility of obtaining certain yarns, and the enormous increase in price, and great uncertainty and delay, with regard to dyes.

Hearty congratulations are due to the Superintendent, and to all those about her who have worked and striven so strenuously to make of the Barclay Workshop the thriving business it is to-day.

The last four years have waged terrible odds against most commercial concerns, and made great demands on capital, so this achievement, under such adverse circumstances, is a thing of which to be justly proud.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the further development of the Barclay Workshop is only the beginning of continued extensions which will ultimately place it in an enviable and unassailable position, resulting in the permanent well-being of its blind workers.

Alice M. RAIKER.

OOOO

THE witness was asked to tell the court the total of his gross income. He refused; the counsel appealed to the judge.

"You must answer the question," said the judge sternly.

The witness fidgeted about, and then burst out with, "But, your honour, I have no gross income. I'm a fisherman, and it's all net."

MOUNT LAVINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND.

WE have received the Annual Report of the Church of England's Zenana Missionary Society's School for the Deaf and Blind at Mount Lavinia, Ceylon. This school was opened in November, 1912; prior to this date nothing at all had been done to teach the deaf or the blind in the island. In 1911, there were 3,957 blind inhabitants in Ceylon, of whom 947 were under 15 years of age. Throughout the war the school has been carried on with no small measure of success. Despite the many calls for charitable help, assistance and encouragement have been forthcoming from many friends. But there is still a great and very real need for the extension of the work to provide for the large numbers of deaf and blind children who at present are still outside the scope of any educational influence. Before this can be done the present accommodation must be very considerably increased, and, now that peace is in sight, it is proposed to prepare a comprehensive extension scheme which will provide for the education of a large number of deaf and blind children of school age. In order to carry out this scheme effectually and without undue delay, the Society calls upon the sympathetic co-operation and practical help of all.

During the past year several improvements have been carried out in the school. Better sleeping accommodation has been provided for the ever-increasing numbers of pupils. There are now 85 children on the register as compared with 70 last year; but many are still being turned away for want of adequate accommodation and the means of maintaining them in the school.

Funds are always an anxiety to those responsible for the working of an institution such as this. It should be noted that £10 a year will fully support a deaf or blind orphan child in the school, and that £5 a year will support a child who has a home for the holidays, but whose parents are too poor to provide it with clothes, or to pay fees.

Subscribers are appealed to to make the institution known among their friends, and to endeavour to secure their interest in an undertaking which sets out to bring to those who are deprived of sight or hearing some of the advantages which others enjoy.



THE STAGE BALL.

THE English Stage—past and present—in all its splendid pageantry, assembled at the Albert Hall on Wednesday, Jan. 8th, at a fancy dress ball given in aid of Sir Arthur Pearson's Blinded Soldiers' Children Fund.

It was a whirlwind of colour and laughter. To a lively two-step and "jazz" stately dresses of past times mingled with the sheepskin breeches of the cowboy, the smock of the Apache, and the brilliant uniforms of the Allied officers. Every theatre, every country, however remote, and every phase of life, were represented. In the centre of it all was Mr. George Robey, as Master of the Ceremonies, wearing modestly the honours of his new C.B.E. Every box was occupied by a distinguished theatrical party, and so crowded was the floor that dancers, between whiles, seated themselves in the "arena." Major J. Mackenzie Rogan, with the massed String Bands of the Brigade of Guards, provided the music.

Among the more original dresses were Bakst creations, weird and wonderful; Early Victorians, demure and simple; aviators, and Egyptians. There was a complete "Jazz" costume of silver tissue, dazzling in the extreme.

The King's box, which was given up by his Majesty to aid the fund, was sold by Madame Delysia for 300 guineas. The Prince of Wales also placed his box at the disposal of the Committee, and it was sold for 200 guineas. An omnibus box on the first tier was taken by Sir Arthur Pearson for blinded officers. In every part of the hall were a number of blinded men from St. Dunstan's, a great many of whom took part in and much enjoyed the dancing. The hall was gaily decorated with the flags of all the Allies.

The outstanding feature of the ball was a Pageant of Play and Players, which, under the direction of Mr. James B. Fagan, took place at midnight. Four hundred and fifty

of the leading actors and actresses of the day participated in this beautiful scene, which represented many of the plays now occupying the stages of the Metropolis, as well as some old favourites.

There was Miss Gertrude Elliott, borne aloft on a palanquin, and surrounded by other players from the popular "Eyes of Youth." Oscar Asche and Lily Brayton produced the wedding group from "Chu Chin Chow." Violet Lorraine appeared on her white horse as seen in the "Bing Boys." Gerald du Maurier and Mabel Russell brought the coster cart of "London Pride." Greek tragedy was introduced by Martin Harvey in the guise of "Œdipus Rex," and other groups included Miss Doris Keane in "Romance," Mr. H. V. Esmond and Miss Eva Moore in "The Three Musketeers," Mr. Nelson Keys in "Buzz Buzz," and the aeroplane scene from "Going Up." Britannia, impersonated by Madame Clara Butt, attended by Peace (Miss Madge Saunders) and the Muses of Tragedy and Comedy (Miss Lillah M'Carthy and Miss Viola Tree) formed a fitting background to these wonderful moving pictures.

The pageant closed with the singing of "Rule Britannia" by Madame Clara Butt.

At the close of the pageant dancing was resumed with much vigour, and continued until the early hours of the morning.

OOOO

AN excellent story belongs to William Wilberforce. He was devoted to his sister, who helped him at every election. He was chaired and she was cheered at the hustings. The cry went up: "Wilberforce for ever!" "Miss Wilberforce for ever!"

Then the great anti-slavery champion stepped forward and said: "Gentlemen, I am content; but I assure you my sister does not wish to be 'Miss Wilberforce' for ever!" He was returned at the head of the poll.

SYDNEY INDUSTRIAL BLIND INSTITUTION.

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

IN reading the Thirty-Eighth Annual Report of the Sydney Industrial Blind Institution, it is pleasing to note that, notwithstanding the many difficulties and drawbacks experienced during the year, the various activities of the Institution have not suffered in any way. There has, on the contrary, been continued progress made in every direction.

The manufacturing activities have not been appreciably reduced, although conditions were very much affected by the scarcity of some kinds of material. The Management was fully alive to the gravity of the situation, and strenuous efforts were made to find substitutes for the shortages; these met with considerable success, and the whole of the workers were kept fully employed.

Twenty years ago forty blind workers were employed in the various shops. To-day there are 123 regular employees, and several are given work to do in their homes. Others residing in various parts of the State are supplied with raw material free, in the case of single men to the value of £5 per annum, and in the case of married men to the value of £10 per annum. This assistance is very helpful to those who, owing to various disabilities, cannot attend at the Institution and participate in regular work and regular wages.

The following comparison of wages paid to the blind every ten years since the inception of the Institution will show the great value that this Institution has been to the industrious blind :—

		£	s.	d.
1879 ...	Wages paid ...	103	0	0
1888 ...	" " ...	1,116	0	0
1898 ...	" " ...	1,700	0	0
1908 ...	" " ...	3,870	0	0
1917 ...	Exclusive of sick pay and medical benefits	6,691	2	8

Assistance is given where required by granting clothes and gifts of money in case of need; but it is satisfactory to know that

very few applications have been made for these during the year.

The teachers in the Home Teaching and Free-Circulating Library Department are kept busy circulating books, visiting the blind in their own homes, giving advice on various matters, and interesting themselves generally in the welfare of those of the blind who need their help. Every effort is made by the teachers to discover any fresh case of blindness, and in this connection they receive valuable assistance from the many friends of the Institution throughout the State, who advise the Committee when any such cases come under their notice. No less than forty-two fresh cases were discovered during the year. A fair number of volumes have been added to the Library. Nearly 6,000 books have been circulated to blind readers throughout the State during the year, including those sent to Hospitals, Government Homes, and charitable institutions.

There is a Blind Workers' Social and Debating Club. Meetings of this club are held regularly every month. The business transacted by the club takes the form of Debates, Newspaper Nights, Impromptu Speeches, Euchre and Domino Tournaments, etc., and many instructive and enjoyable evenings are spent by the members in this way.

Of the eighteen blinded soldiers who have returned from the front, fourteen have received or are receiving attention either at the Institution, the Hospitals or at their own homes. Several of the returned soldiers have become quite expert at reading and writing Braille, and have learnt to use the ordinary typewriters fairly well. Some are learning piano repairing and polishing, also piano tuning.

During the year the Minister for Repatriation called a Conference of two representatives from each of the Blind Institutions of the Commonwealth for the purpose of considering proposals for recommending to the Federal Government the most

suitable and humane provision necessary for securing the welfare and re-education of the blinded soldiers. This Conference was held at Melbourne. The principal resolutions carried by the Conference were those relating mainly to the establishment of Training Centres, Wages and Allowances, and a thorough system of After-Care. In connection with the organization of the After-Care of the blinded soldiers it was suggested that the work should be carried on in each State by the Committee of the Centre in which the re-education has taken place. Each centre is prepared to keep the men at work after they have learnt their trade, equip them for work, visit them periodically for further instruction and advice, and also purchase their work from them at market rates. It was strongly urged that those men who enter English Institutions should be sent out to Australia as soon as they are physically and mentally fit to travel.

These and other recommendations afterwards received the approval and endorsement of the Minister of Repatriation.

National Institute for the Blind Massage Branch.

AT the December 1918 examination of the Incorporated Society, the nine students sent up by the National Institute for the Blind (all blinded soldiers), and the five civilian students trained at the National Hospital School of Massage, by arrangement with the National Institute, all successfully qualified. Posts are being found for all the blinded soldiers, and of the civilian students, medical man, Dr. Cooke, has returned to his a home in North Devon to start in private practice, probably with the idea of taking resident patients. We have obtained an appointment for Mr. Lark at the 3rd Durham V. A. Hospital for Officers in Sunderland; Mr. Cartwright has started work at the Alder Hey Orthopædic Military Hospital, Liverpool. Mr. Michael Whitfield and Mr. Sydney Puzey are, at present, taking the advanced course in Swedish Remedial Exercises. We have obtained two good private cases for Mr. Whitfield in London; and Mr. Puzey hopes to start in private practice at New Barnet, where he resides, and he has also been appointed to the St. James' Hospital, New Barnet.

MR. SPEAKER'S PERQUISITES.

SOME quaint privileges pertain to the office of the Speaker of the House of Commons. One of these is the gift every year from the Master of the Buckhounds of a buck and a doe killed in the Royal preserves. The buck duly arrives in September, the doe coyly following a couple of months later. The custom goes back as far as records remain, and with it is established a fixed fee by way of honorarium to the official who forwards the beast.

Later in the year, somewhere about Christmas-time, the Speaker receives another tribute, the donors on this occasion being the Clothworkers' Company of London, who send a present of a generous width of the best broadcloth.

Further, the Speaker is entitled to £1,000 of equipment money and 2,000 ounces of plate immediately on his election, two hogsheads of claret, and £100 a year for stationery.

In former times the income of the Speaker was £5 a day, in addition to fees on private Bills. His salary has now been fixed by Act of Parliament at £5,000 a year.

THE EAGLE'S ANCESTOR.

SCIENTISTS are much excited just now over the discovery in an ancient tar lake near Los Angeles, Southern California, of the fossil remains of a bird which they contend is the father of the American eagle.

It was certainly "some chick'un," as Ebenezer would say, for, according to experts who have examined the remains, the bird stood anywhere from 8ft. to 18ft. high, from the bottom of his powerful feet to the top of his plumed head. He was the biggest and strongest bird of his time, with wings useless for flight, but powerful for fighting purposes.

The enormous legs were armoured, while the striking spur on the bird's foot was anything in length from 1ft. to 2ft. The beak was a foot long, and its edges cut like shears.

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

THE prospect for blind tuners has certainly improved during the past year, for many firms, owing to stress of circumstances, have been obliged to employ them, and though we are not optimistic enough to suppose that all these firms will continue to employ the blind when more sighted tuners are available, it may be confidently stated that the blind have had an exceptional opportunity of showing what they can do, with the result that many firms previously prejudiced have become convinced that the blind can be profitably employed, and that in tuning itself—particularly in the setting of a scale—they have frequently shown themselves superior to the sighted. The teaching of repairing has improved in some of our institutions recently, and though there is still much to be done in this most important branch, there is every likelihood of further improvement, owing to the fuller recognition of the fact that a good practical knowledge of repairing must contribute very materially to the success of a blind tuner. The Institute's work for the year 1918 has included the finding of several posts at good wages, the defraying of expenses of such posts, the paying of fees for tuning courses, both for beginners and for those requiring additional instruction, in providing in some needy cases tools for those starting out on their careers, and latterly in assisting tuners to increase their private connections. The last-named branch, particularly in the London area, gives every promise of further development, there having been a steadier increase in the number of applications for tuners in 1918 than during the previous year. Tuning forms and particulars of our test may be had on application.

MUSIC TEACHERS.

Our register is gradually growing, but we hope that many more will send in their names during the current year. All that is required is some guarantee of efficiency, either a recognised diploma or a testimonial from a qualified musician. Though naturally it is not possible to meet all requests for the publication of new music, such requests are always welcome, and we can in case of urgency (as has been done in some instances

during the past year) lend the MS. copy of a piece before such piece is actually issued.

ORGANISTS.

Similarly, we shall be glad to hear from organists who want special music for their services, as suggestions are always welcome. Special forms may be had on application.

MUSICAL SUCCESSES.

We have just heard with much pleasure that Mr. Donald Sparrow (pupil of Mr. H. E. Platt at the Royal Institution, Birmingham) has not only been successful in passing the Fellowship examination at the Royal College of Organists, but he has also carried off the Turpin Prize. This is the first time that an R.C.O. prize has been won by a Birmingham student, and we offer Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Platt most cordial congratulations on the event. We are also glad to have the opportunity of congratulating Mr. Quinn (Edinburgh Institution) and Miss Doris Blake on having obtained respectively, the Associateship Diploma of the Royal College of Organists and the Licentiate Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music.

H. C. WARRILOW

(Director of Music).

OOOO

THE Wash, of which German prisoners have reclaimed 550 acres, has already yielded many hundred acres of rich corn land. The whole islet would long since have been drained and formed into a new county had circumstances permitted. But treasure-seekers have vainly explored these "Lincolnshire washes," as Shakespeare styles them, for another source of hidden wealth. It was at the Cross Keys Wash, in 1216, that King John lost all his baggage and treasure. This brought upon posterity an additional calamity by causing some literary miscreant, who published a "Comic History of England" during the Victorian era, to perpetrate the terrible pun that "John lost his clothes in the Wash."

OOOO

HEAVY falls of snow have occurred in the Midlands, where the people say they have not had such a winter since last summer.—*Punch*.

RHYTHM AND RHYTHMIC EXPRESSION.

IN a recent number of the *Music Student* an article appeared which contained the following statement:—

“The rhythmic sense is at present specially weak in the blind owing probably to their lack of vitality and self-confidence.”

A correspondent to the *Music Student* comments on this statement, in a letter from which we take the following extract:—

“It would be helpful to have a definition of the term ‘rhythmic sense’ as used here. Does the writer mean simply a sense of rhythm—the power to apprehend and appreciate rhythm; or does he include also the power to express and interpret what is thus felt and enjoyed? If he does not include the power of expression, I think the statement that the rhythmic sense is at present specially weak in the blind needs some modification. I speak of those blind from birth or from early life, not of the man who loses his sight in maturity.

“It is true that many experiences which would naturally awaken and develop a sense of rhythm are denied to the blind child. To him all rhythm of motion, line and form, revealed to the eye in nature and art, is a sealed book, and any spontaneous or deliberate imitation of such rhythm in his own movements is impossible. Sight is at once the most spontaneous and intellectual of all the senses; and it is chiefly through vision that the child obtains that natural education by which Wordsworth sets such store. . .

“But, on the other hand, the hearing of the blind is usually very acute and discriminating, while his sensitiveness to subtle vibrations and atmospheric influences is often positively uncanny. To rhythm which may be felt or heard, the blind child may be keenly alive; he may enjoy it with almost painful intensity. But how shall he express his delight? . . .

“It may be argued that if a sense of rhythm or any other sense be strong and

active, it will manifest itself somehow, whatever the difficulties may be. But shall we recognise the manifestation? Can we penetrate the disguise of aimless excitement or stolid repression, unresponsive faces or ungainly gestures, and reach what lies beyond? Children find little help in speech, they lack the fitting words, and, too often, the certainty of a sympathetic hearing. It is precisely in this disparity between the power to feel and the power to express or communicate feeling that the tragedy of the blind child consists; here we have the measure of the gulf which isolates him from all but the most discerning.

“There are persons who are so absolutely ruled by their senses that they fail to appreciate the existence of anything not patent to the eye or ear. They gain no help from intuition or the swifter processes of logic; nay, they are often balked by their senses in the simplest matters. In reading, they will halt over a printer’s error or an illegible word, when the mind, unclouded by the sense impression, would unhesitatingly supply the right word. In conversation, instead of following the thought of their companion, they will be misled by some awkwardness of expression, some heedless misuse of a word. He who would understand blindness must be the exact opposite of this type. He must often shut both eyes and ears, and, yielding himself to a finer sense, feel his way till the inarticulate is made plain to him, till he not only knows but can also interpret. . . .”

oooo

INQUIRING LADY: “How much milk does your cow give a day?”

TRUTHFUL BOY: “About eight quarts, lady.”

INQUIRING LADY: “And how much of that do you sell?”

TRUTHFUL BOY: “About twenty quarts, lady.”

OBITUARY.

J. E. ASTIN.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. J. E. Astin, who for many years occupied the position of Home Visitor to the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society. After a prolonged and painful illness, Mr. Astin passed away at the Sanatorium, Stanborough Park, Watford, on January 3rd. The deceased gentleman was well known to us, and his work in the Manchester area was much appreciated. His loss will be keenly felt by the blind poor, by whom he was regarded as a close personal friend and kindly counsellor.

The following sonnet is contributed by Mr. Ben Purse, and the poem expresses the sentiment of high esteem in which he was held by all who knew our deceased colleague :—

SONNET, by Ben Purse.

Of all my many friends thou wert to me most dear ;
Our love was staunch and true through changing years.

And now, alas, I miss thee more than words can tell ;
But sleep, brother, sleep, heed not these burning tears.

Others will grieve for thee whom thou did'st oft
befriend,

The blind poor herded in the City slums ;
Freely they gave to thee their love and reverence,
'Twas all they had to give, thy joy to tend.

Thou peerless, light-diffusing orb, whose radiant
blush

Is one great triumph of ecstatic joy,
Sweet moon, can'st thou too feel the pangs of bitter
loss ?

When stars grow pale and fade from out the
spheres ?

Where fragrant lime-trees quiver in the summer
breeze,

Sleep gently with the violets in yon secluded vale.

January 12th, 1919.

NORMAN WEBB.

IT is with very sincere regret that we record the death of Mr. Norman Webb, youngest son of the late Mr. F. P. Webb and Mrs. Webb, of Evesham, which took place recently at his residence, 35, Finstock-road, South Kensington, London. Mr. Webb had recently undergone an operation, from which he had not thoroughly recovered when he recommenced his duties as masseur at the Hammersmith Hospital. He then contracted influenza, and despite the most

careful nursing by his wife, who subsequently fell a victim to the malady, pneumonia supervened, terminating fatally. Mr. Webb had many friends in Evesham and the district, by whom his death will be sincerely mourned. He was thirty-five years of age, and was before he was afflicted with blindness very interested in all kinds of sport, and especially in rowing. He on several occasions rowed at Evesham Regatta as a member of the home club, and also as a member of Liverpool Victoria. His blindness was the result of an accident, which destroyed the sight of one eye, the other subsequently becoming affected. Despite his great handicap, Mr. Webb became a very skilled masseur, for which occupation he received his training at the National Institute for the Blind, an institution of which he always spoke in the highest terms of gratitude and praise. A clear proof of his skill is provided by the fact that in a massage examination he passed sixth, with distinction, out of 112 candidates. He was very fond of his work, and the change that came over him when he again found that he was capable of performing useful and necessary work in the country was very remarkable.

Mr Webb was married in June last to Miss Elsie Buckingham, of Hampstead, and with her and Mrs. Webb and the other members of the family the deepest sympathy is felt.

The funeral took place at Evesham Cemetery.—*Evesham Journal*.

ELIZABETH MADDOCKS.

WE deeply regret to announce the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Maddocks, wife of Mr. Samuel Maddocks, Superintendent of the School for the Blind, Broom Hill, Sheffield. Mrs. Maddocks passed away on Christmas Day, after a long and painful illness, following an operation.

We wish to express our heartfelt sympathy with Mr. Maddocks in this hour of great trial.

OOOO

WELCOME IN VERSE FOR HAIG.

SCOTSMEN in Kent sent the following telegram of congratulation to Sir Douglas Haig :—

Welcome frae Flanders,
We ken while we cheer
If ye hadna been there
Weel—we wadna be here.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—No. 27.

MARCH, 1919.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.



THE wave of Labour Unrest that is at present passing over the world is the natural result of the terrible four years through which we have just passed. We have seen and are seeing outbreaks of the strike fever in various branches of industrialism, and sober-minded men are eagerly looking around them for remedies to save us all from the threatened chaos and the complete upheaval of our social system. It is interesting, therefore, at this moment to say a few words on the much-discussed Whitley Report, issued by the Reconstruction Committee on Relations between Employers and Employed. The Right Hon. J. H. Whitley, M.P., after whom the Councils have been named, was Chairman of this Committee, and its members included leading representatives of employers and workers, in addition to Professor S. J. Chapman, C.B.E., Professor of Political Economy, University of Edinburgh. These Whitley Councils are composed of members of Trade Unions and Employers' Associations, new organizations being admitted with the approval of the particular side of the Council of which they would form a part. The various sections of the industries are represented, and also the various classes of labour engaged. That is to say, "masters and men," to use the old phraseology, meet together at regular intervals in a room to discuss various matters concerning the business in which they are both vitally concerned.

It seems to us that the aims of the Whitley Council apply to every branch of

our industrial life, under which heading Employment for Blind Workers must also come. We therefore make no further apology for devoting a few words to the subject.

The aims of the Committee were :—1. To make and consider suggestions for securing a permanent improvement in the relations between employers and workmen. 2. To recommend means for securing that industrial conditions affecting the relations between employers and workmen shall be systematically reviewed by those concerned, with a view to improving conditions in the future.

During the war an exceptional co-operation was established between all classes, and especially between employers and employed. To secure continuance and improvement of these relations, the Committee contended it was essential that any proposals put forward should offer to workpeople the means of attaining improved conditions of employment and a higher standard of comfort generally, and involve the enlistment of their active and continuous co-operation in the promotion of industry. To this end they recommended the formation in each industry of an organization, "representative of employers and workpeople, to have as its object the regular consideration of matters affecting the progress and well-being of the trade from the point of view of all those engaged in it, so far as this is consistent with the general interest of the community."

Naturally, after-war problems need very careful handling, and conditions vary in the different industries, and even in different branches of the same industry. For this reason their treatment must be in the hands of those who have an intimate knowledge of

the facts and circumstances of each trade, and such knowledge is to be found only among those directly connected with the trade. With a view to meeting these conditions, Joint Standing Industrial Councils were formed, on the recommendation of the Committee, in various industries where they did not already exist.

Among the questions dealt with by the Councils are :—

1. The better utilization of the practical knowledge of the workpeople.

2. The establishment of regular methods of negotiation for issues arising between employers and workpeople, with a view both to the prevention of differences and to their better adjustment when they appear.

3. Technical education and training.

4. Methods of fixing and adjusting earnings, piecework, prices, etc.

5. Means for securing to the workpeople a greater share in and responsibility for the determination and observance of the conditions under which their work is carried on.

The fact that the workpeople are represented on the Councils ensures full consideration of their point of view of any subject under discussion. Regular meetings are found to be essential, as the object of the Councils is to "secure co-operation by granting workpeople a greater share in the consideration of matters affecting their industries, and this can only be achieved by keeping employers and workpeople in constant touch."

The final tribute to such Councils has been paid by Mr. G. H. Roberts, formerly Minister of Labour. He says, "It seems to me that unless the parties are brought together in such a way, this universal unrest, born of suspicion and maintained by irresponsible sections of the community, will remain." After all we are all working for the same object, it matters not what department of our industrial life be concerned. Any light that can be thrown on the different problems of reconstruction and re-education must be most carefully examined.

oooo

THE subscription rate for *The Beacon* for Great Britain and the Colonies is 3s. per annum, post free; for foreign countries, 4s. 2d. Single copies can be bought for 3d., or 4d. post free.

BLIND WAR WORKERS.

TWO HUNDRED blind workers and members of the staff of the Incorporated Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind were entertained on January 29th at an "Armistice" dinner, in the Toplady Hall of Whitfield's Tabernacle.

They heartily cheered the suggestion of their Secretary and General Manager (Mr. Howard Mullins) that a telegram of grateful thanks should be sent to the King and Queen, who, as patrons of the Association, have unceasingly interested themselves in the welfare of the blind.

In the course of the speeches it was stated that the sightless workers had, in the only way open to them, done what they could towards winning the war. They had manufactured mattresses and bedding for the wounded, while much of the wicker work and many of the brooms used by the Army and Navy had also been made by them. One of the difficulties of the Association is that blind labour is more expensive than ordinary labour, and this is one of the reasons why the Association cannot be self-supporting, and has to ask the public for "grants in aid."

oooo

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON IN AMERICA.

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON evidently made a great impression on the people he met in America. A New York *Evening Post* interviewer says of him: "He is a man of action and of instantaneous decisions, of absolute self-confidence, large will power, and an enduring mental energy. He dominates other people. It is possible to imagine him, a blind man, leading a regiment into battle, over the top and into the enemy's trenches. He could find his way and lead it. He could put confidence into every man behind him and command him. He is the sort of person whom people fear and admire, and look to in an emergency." The interviewer declares that, to everyone who met Sir Arthur Pearson during his stay in New York, the connotations of the word "blind" have been swiftly and miraculously changed.

THE STATUS OF TRADE INSTRUCTORS.

BY BEN PURSE.



IF the technical education and industrial efficiency of the sightless worker is to give evidence of definite improvement in the near future, we must perforce not rely exclusively on the aptitude and disposition of the person undergoing such training. The effort, initiative and enterprise of the pupil counts for something undoubtedly, but all these considerations are certainly neutralised if the means for obtaining instruction are permitted to become obsolete or otherwise defective.

It is generally conceded by those who are most competent to express an opinion, that far too little attention has been devoted to the setting-up of the machinery requisite for discharging such obligations, and it is thus by under-valuing the *modus operandi* that we have all unconsciously contributed to those factors which tend to maintain at a low level the standard of industrial and economic utility.

It is as certain as anything very well can be, that the productivity of the average blind worker must continue to be appreciably below that of the man whose acquirements are unlimited by any form of handicap, but it is equally true that the general level is much lower than need be, because we have heretofore conspicuously failed to appreciate the fact that the means generally employed to reach the given object have been far too crude, haphazard and entirely lacking in scientific application.

Generally, it is held that the proper persons to give instruction to the Blind in various trades are those whose handiwork shows some marked distinction of quality and craftsmanship, and there is certainly something to be said for such a view, for quality of workmanship must never be under-estimated. Such an attitude, however, does not by any means express the final requirement of the situation, for oftentimes

it happens that an excellent craftsman possesses no ability to impart his knowledge, and innumerable failures have been registered because of the lack of real ability to instruct on the part of those with whom the responsibility has been vested.

It is nothing short of a grotesque fallacy to assume that any and every person can so instruct. The Education authorities require a long preparation for the teaching profession, for experience has shown how very necessary this is. Hence, the reason for their rigid insistence upon the practical part of this work. No one would dream of attributing blame to them for so doing. If it is so necessary then, to demand a reasonably high standard of attainment from the teacher in ordinary schools, it must surely be of not less value to set up a standard that can claim legitimate respect for the training of those who aspire to become trade instructors to the Blind.

Speed and efficiency are the requirements of the age, and unless we contrive as far as we are able, to keep in close co-operation with the developments that are taking place in the industrial arena, our ability to produce will even more disproportioned grow, and the tendency of all our modern educational methods in the Blind world will thus be neutralised. Our object surely, is to minimise the handicap, not to unduly accentuate disabilities and create artificial limitations. We cannot be too insistent upon this point, for if our system of education and industrial training does not make for the promotion of a higher standard of dexterity and general efficiency, then we are simply pursuing an insane policy of drift which signalises ultimate disaster, and tends to discredit the labour of the Blind in all spheres of commercial activity.

Having clearly in mind then, the true interests of the Blind community, we can no more afford to ignore these essentials than the sea captain would dare to decline the

use of his chart and compass. Some of our Industrial institutions are providing tolerably good opportunities for imparting training, but they are most lamentably few in number, and it is a matter of profound regret to us not to be able to speak approvingly of the system generally in operation. It is not intended here to criticise any one single organisation, but merely to draw attention to the general defects and to argue the necessity for reconstructing the entire system.

In order that a higher and more uniform level of teaching capacity may be available for our industrial establishments, it does seem essential that opportunities should be provided for those who wish to become instructors to the Blind, and any organisation that will undertake the business of preparing such instructors will confer an immense boon upon the blind and on all associated with their employment. Especially would it be valuable if opportunities were afforded such persons for acquiring a knowledge of practical teaching before being engaged by Institutions to take up salaried appointments.

The last phrase of the foregoing paragraph brings us face to face with yet another defect which seems to be almost inherent in the course of treatment meted out to those discharging the difficult duties of trade instructors.

In some of the residential Institutions particularly, we much regret to find that the last named are denied the status given to other branches of the teaching profession. They are treated as a sort of tolerated quantity and denied privileges common to other members of the staff. Such an attitude cannot be reasonably defended or successfully sustained, and there can be no doubt that it is not conducive to those good domestic relationships that ought to exist in every such well-regulated establishment. Moreover, it is manifestly absurd to attempt so to differentiate, for so far as the interests of the Blind community are involved, all branches of our activities are so closely allied, interwoven and inter-dependent, that few of us can legitimately afford to say that we are one shred more necessary or important than the rest.

If only we could get this view point into our minds we should certainly be wiser and happier folk; there would be no room for those heart-burnings and petty jealousies which so frequently destroy friendships,

and tend to sully the work in which we are all engaged.

It is true that many experienced people have long felt the necessity for something to be done to attract a good type of instructor who, while being a thoroughly practical workman, also possesses other equally necessary qualifications; but it is of little use merely to theorise on the subject without attempting to get to the bed-rock of the difficulty, and a longing for a change will not of itself produce any tangible or satisfactory result. The simple truth is, that these positions have seldom been made to attract from the remunerative point of view, hence we have lost therefore, something of immense value in the past because of a niggardly, cheeseparing policy.

If the results of our training are sometimes disappointing, one fact at least is clearly revealed: we have obtained more substantial advantages than could reasonably have been anticipated from the present system of trade instruction, and it seems to us that these results are largely to be attributed to the enterprise and capacity of the blind worker.

Two conditions must be observed in this connection. The salaries should be more commensurate with the responsibilities involved, and we should not be less mindful of the fact that if we are to attract a larger number of sightless people to a life of industry, in substitution of the conditions they have now to encounter, we must offer more than the stinted, meagre form of existence that is usually held out to them. The payment of mere piece-work prices will not and cannot solve this difficulty. Liberal supplementary grants will always be necessary, and should be available not only to be administered as additions to wages earned, but also for the purpose of providing full maintenance during the period of training, otherwise the efforts of the ablest instructors will be stultified if the pupil is worried by economic anxiety.

It is fitting at the moment that the attention of our readers should be drawn to this subject, for the period of industrial reconstruction now with us must of necessity affect every class of worker, and it is incumbent upon the Institutions to keep their machinery as efficient as possible, in order that they may be prepared to successfully cope with the coming and inevitable changes.

We make no claim that this article embraces every point at issue in the discussion of so complex a subject, for we are all too conscious that much more could be written and, we believe, with advantage in this connection. We must content ourselves, however, for the present with a brief summary of our primary contentions and leave our readers to assign to them their relative value.

The things which seem to us therefore, to be vitally essential, are (1) In order to guarantee an efficient standard of training there should be some common centre where persons who desire to become trade instructors to the Blind should have adequate opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of practical teaching, and that there should also be some form of certificate issued which would merit general recognition by the management of the respective industrial organisations. (2) In order to attract competent persons the salaries offered should be set at a reasonable level, and as far as practicable, be progressively commensurate with growing responsibilities. The foregoing considerations must be conditioned by the third, which is, that if the best results are to be secured from efficient training, those undergoing tuition must be relieved of all anxiety arising from economic considerations.

After much consultation with those who feel keenly on the subject, we assure that

the practical utility of the ideas here suggested have much to commend themselves to all who value our future industrial developments.

DOVER PATROL MEMORIAL.

THE Dover Patrol War Memorial Fund now stands at £18,141. The Mayor of Dover has just received a contribution of over

£30 from the blinded officers and men at St. Dunstan's. Chief Engine-Room Artificer Burnett suggested to his comrades that St. Dunstan's men would like to show their gratitude to the force which enabled them to cross the Channel in safety, and the response was ready. In appealing to his blinded comrades, Burnett said every man who had been to France would realise that his leave was only made possible by the unceasing vigilance of the Dover Patrol. The Navy, he pointed out, had been one of the most generous supporters of St. Dunstan's, and

it was felt that the men would be glad of this opportunity of reciprocating.

oooo

THE material for two gowns in Princess Patricia's trousseau was made by the blind girls of the London Association for the Blind, in whose good work she takes the keenest interest.



THE HOME FOR BLIND BABIES, "SUNSHINE HOUSE," CHORLEY WOOD, HERTS: IN THE NURSERY.



MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE.

ON Monday, January 20th, a very attractive programme was given in the Armitage Hall, the contributors to it being as follows:—Violinist, Mr. Ernest Whitfield; pianist, Miss Maud Puddy (both of whom are old friends at these concerts); vocalist, Miss Madeline Collins.

All three artists were at their best, and the programme was thoroughly vital from start to finish. The first number was Beethoven's violin sonata in D, an early work of the composer, which is not very often heard. It is very fresh and interesting, and certainly deserves to be more frequently performed. Miss Puddy, by her rendering of Paderewski's "Sarabande" and Schumann's "Caprice in E," evoked a well-deserved encore, while Miss Collins, by her delightful and spirited interpretation of well-known operatic selections like "The Jewel Song" from "Faust," contributed very substantially to the enjoyment of the evening. She responded most readily to the enthusiastic encores, and her promise to sing again at these concerts was received with marked approval.

Miss Collins is a young Australian singer who has already made her mark in operatic circles, and of whom more, doubtless, will be heard in the immediate future. In the middle of the concert Miss Collins was presented with a bouquet of choice carnations, as a token of appreciation for her kindness in coming to sing.

* * *

All those who attended Mr. Hollins' recital on Friday, February 14th, thoroughly enjoyed themselves, for the programme was most attractive from beginning to end, and Mr. Hollins' explanatory remarks about the pieces he played were not only enlightening, but the humorously cheerful spirit which pervaded them created a most genial friendliness between him and his audience. All the pieces were delightfully rendered, but special mention may be made of John Ireland's "Villanella" (which appeared in the February B.M.M.), Mr. Hollins' charming "Scherzo in

A" (which we have also published), a very original "Berceuse," by Vierne (a modern, blind French composer, whose music is attracting a good deal of attention just now); Mendelssohn's "Capriccio in B minor," arranged for the piano and organ (Mr. Jefferys, organist of Clapton Park Chapel, contributing the organ part); and the "Overture to Oberon." Mr. Hollins was as happy on the piano as on the organ, and when he gives us another recital we hope that Mr. Jefferys and he will similarly collaborate. As an encore to the "Capriccio" Mr. Hollins played "Alla Burla," by Wolstenholme, which he described, to the temporary mystification of some of the audience, as a recently unearthed piece by Bach. This notice will not be complete without a special reference to the improvisation which found a place in the middle of the programme, and which was built upon a theme provided by Mr. Wolstenholme for the occasion, and the themes respectively were upon the "Scherzo" and "Alla Burla," which had just been heard. The treatment was most masterly, and the appearance of the theme was watched with the keenest interest by the audience.

oooo

BLIND TEA AGENTS.

THE total sum distributed by the National Institute for the Blind for the three months ended the 26th December, as extra profits to those blind tea agents who obtain their supplies from other wholesalers than the Blind Tea Agency, Ltd., the Blind Self Aid Tea Company, and the London and Provincial Tea Company, is £137 15s. 8d. Since this arrangement was come to with the Controller of tea supplies the Institute has distributed altogether £250 1s. 5d.

oooo

MR. ATKINSON (St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park) would like to know if any reader can tell him where he can procure a copy of "Law and Work," published by the Christian Science Association.

SPELLING REFORM.



NOW that the Board of Education has sanctioned experiments with Simplified Spelling in English Elementary Schools, the urgent question of spelling reform is likely to be of no little interest to the public. The number of experiments made has not yet been large, but the results are interesting in the extreme. The first attempt at teaching Simplified Spelling in schools was made in Dundee in 1915. The result was that pupils who had been taught by means of Simplified Spelling for *ten months*, and had then learned the conventional spelling for *four months*—fourteen months in all—could read as well and speak as well as pupils who had been at school for nineteen months and had been taught exclusively the conventional spelling. The balance of difference was altogether in favour of the pupils who had been taught on the new lines. They had acquired a better and more natural utterance and expression, and had laid a more solid foundation for the subsequent cultivation of good, clear speech.

Experiments carried out in four schools prove that the forty forms that represent the forty sounds of English speech can be mastered in a few weeks, and that therefore only a little practice is needed until the pupil can decipher any word whatever that forms part of his daily diction. But the question can be asked—in fact, always is asked, “What of the transition to the ordinary spelling?” In not one of these schools has the transition given anything like the trouble that was anticipated. A visitor to one of the schools in Dundee at which these experiments were taking place, writes: “I heard the (transition) class do a bit of unseen reading from a book in the ordinary spelling. The fruits of the consistent training in the relation of sound and symbol showed themselves in the grip and intelligence and readiness with which the pupils read the ‘nomic’ forms,

which of course were new to them. The combination of stress and intonation, and the ease of utterance, proved that the naming of the words was real pleasurable reading, and that the meaning was being caught as the words were uttered.”

In order to illustrate the methods employed in the teaching of Simplified Spelling, we quote from the report of a Headmaster at one of the schools at Leeds: “For the first two weeks,” he writes, “I spent much time assisting the class teacher with each reading lesson. After making sure of the short vowels and simple consonants, a start was made with the digraphs. Then the children were encouraged to join two sounds, and they soon knew and could join such words as ‘and it iz dhe boi.’ I then prepared wall sheets, with short sentences in easy words. For instance, the letters J-o-n were written on the blackboard. Then we made a story about John Cope, one of the children present. “Jon had a peni tu by a peni bun; run, jon, run, jon, by a peni bun; run, skip, hop tu dhe shop; run, jon, run, jon, by a peni bun!” The children joined in this heartily; the work was real and alive. They began to realise that written words are living pictures by which thoughts may be expressed. . . . In a few months the brighter children needed little or no teaching. They were able to discover words for themselves and to make out the stories in the *Ferst Reeder*. Some quite difficult words, such as ‘afterwards, gathered, squirrels, curtain, twinkle,’ are to be met with in the *Ferst Reeder*. Not a bad selection for five-year-old children. The fact is, a spelling that represents speech as it is, and ‘tells no lies’ makes it possible to introduce into the reading lesson any word that the child can pronounce and understand.

“Everything in the experiment points to the fact that, whereas learning to read under normal conditions is a long and tedious process, under the Simplified Spelling Scheme

a complete mastery of reading would be accomplished in the first two or three years. When once the children have overcome the initial difficulties of associating sounds with signs, there is nothing more to learn. The children can proceed on their own initiative to decipher any and every word."

In conclusion, we give the following extracts from a report of the Annual Meeting of the Simplified Spelling Society. This report had been sent to us by the Secretary of the Society, Mr. J. Montagu, who further gives us the interesting information that the British child takes one year longer to learn to spell than the German child, whose spelling is practically phonetic :—

"Presiding at the Annual Meeting of the Simplified Spelling Society (held last month at the University College, London), Professor Walter Ripman said that Spelling Reform was important, because our present spelling involved a great waste of the time of school children and was an obstacle to the spread of English as a world language. The Society had launched a petition asking for a Royal Commission on the subject. Such a Commission would enquire in the first place whether a simplification of English spelling would be advantageous. Then would come the much more difficult question as to the form the simplification should take. In the first place what form of speech should be represented? We could not look forward to a spelling which would lead to one kind of English in one place and to a different kind in another place. Just as our stage did not change its dialect according to the country in which it performed, but had the same English speech in Dublin, Melbourne, London or New York, so we required a standard of speech before we could have a really uniform and satisfactory spelling. The next question would be as to what symbols should be used to represent the standard speech. The scheme of the Simplified Spelling Society used only existing letters, but the question would arise whether any new letters should be added. Here there were many considerations to be taken into account, and the Society had received many suggestions on the point; but not all those suggestions were practicable and valuable. With regard to a proposed new letter, it had to be considered whether it would be clearly legible even in small type, and whether it was artistic in form.

"Subsequently Miss L. Walsh (Honeywell Road School, Battersea) spoke, and there

was an interesting demonstration by children from this school, Miss Parker and Miss Renwick showing how the little pupils were taught to read with the Simplified Spelling, and how easily the transition to the ordinary spelling was made. Mr. A. P. Graves told several amusing stories illustrating some results of our present spelling. One was as follows: A provincial policeman, in the course of his nightly beat in Nebuchadnezzar Street—which leads into High Street—chanced upon a dead horse and, later, at the station, set about writing a report of his discovery. But he must needs spell 'Nebuchadnezzar.' As he wrestled, wrote and erased a sergeant came in. 'How do you spell Nebuchadnezzar?' 'Nebuchadnezzar,' repeated the sergeant. 'N-e-b-u-.' A pause. 'N-e-b-u-k-. Here, don't bother me; do your own work.' Robert returned to the problem in vain. Eventually he started to his feet, flung off his coat, turned up his sleeves and made for the door. 'Hi! Where are you off to in that get-up?' 'I'm going out,' was the reply, 'to drag that blooming horse into High Street.'

"Mr. Mohammed Sadiq also spoke of the importance of English Spelling Reform to the natives of India, and a general discussion followed."

"LIGHT IN DARKNESS."

WITH reference to our notice in last month's *Beacon*, regarding the "Light in Darkness Birthday League," we wish to state that this League was originated in 1901, its Honorary Secretary being Mrs. A. F. Harland, 5, Duppas Hill Terrace, Croydon. The British Blind Branch was started in 1904. Its Honorary Secretary is Miss Hilda E. Boord, 8, Stanley Gardens, W.11. She receives donations from blind members only.

oooo

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND.

THE National Institute for the Blind has just published in Braille a work that should prove of the utmost value in fostering among blind children a greater love and deeper knowledge of the Bible. The work consists of extracts from the Old and New Testaments, the selections having been made by Sir Washington Ranger, M.A., D.C.L., and Rev. J. W. St. Claire Hill, M.A. The work consists of thirteen intermediate-sized Braille volumes, of which nine contain extracts from the Old Testament and four from the New Testament. The work is not merely a collection of Bible stories, but contains, in the original Bible language, selections from almost every book of the Bible. A special feature of the work is the care that has been taken to ensure ease of reading and reference. The volumes are intermediate in size, and the Braille is inter-lined; each page is numbered, and has a separate heading; and every verse commences as a paragraph on a fresh line. We give below a summary of the contents of each volume, which shows at a glance the type of extracts to be found in each:—

SCRIPTURE PORTIONS.

Old Testament.

Vol. I.—Genesis. The Creation—Joseph's Interpretation of Pharaoh's Dream.

Vol. II.—Genesis and Exodus. Joseph's Brethren go down into Egypt—The Song of Moses.

Vol. III.—Exodus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth. The Quails and the Manna—Ruth.

Vol. IV.—I. Samuel and II. Samuel. Hannah's Prophetic Prayer—The Last Words of David.

Vol. V.—II. Samuel, I. Kings, II. Kings. David's Sin in Numbering the People—Hoshea.

Vol. VI.—II. Kings, I. Chronicles, II. Chronicles. Hezekiah—Uzziah.

Vol. VII.—II. Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms. Revival under Hezekiah—A Psalm of Deliverance.

Vol. VIII.—Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah. A Psalm of David—Israel: a Prophecy and a Message.

Vol. IX.—Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Jonah, Micah, Zechariah, Malachi. Prophecy of Seventy Years' Captivity—The Prophecy of Malachi.

New Testament.

Vol. X.—St. Matthew, St. Luke. Visit of the Magi—The Walk to Emmaus.

Vol. XI.—St. John, Acts of the Apostles. The Deity of Jesus Christ—The Gospel Given to the Gentiles.

Vol. XII.—Acts, Romans, I. Corinthians, II. Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians. Peter's Imprisonment and Deliverance—Christ the believer's strength rejoicing over anxiety.

Vol. XIII.—Colossians, I. Thessalonians, II. Peter, I. John, Revelations. The believer's union with Christ—The New Paradise and its River.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

PIANOFORTE RECITALS.

A SERIES of Pianoforte Recitals is being given at the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, with a view to making the many recent additions to the Music Section better known.

The next of the series will take place on Tuesday, March 18th, at 7.30 p.m., and all who are interested are cordially invited.

SHAKESPEARE READING.

ON Tuesday, March 11th, at 7 p.m., a reading in character, but without dresses or scenery, of Shakespeare's "As you Like It," with four pieces of music, as directed by the poet (to be sung by a quartet of voices unaccompanied), will be given at the National Library, under the direction of H. Keatley Moore, B.A., Mus. Bac. All those interested are heartily welcome.

N.B.—This reading was to have been held last month, but was unavoidably postponed owing to the railway strike.

H. V. SPANNER,
Music Librarian.

OOOO

IN the last number of *The Beacon*, owing to an oversight, it was stated that Mr. Donald Sparrow was the first Birmingham pupil to carry off an R.C.O. Prize. We are glad now to correct this error by saying that another prize falls to the credit of the Birmingham Institution, for Mr. Harold Freear at a previous examination obtained the A.R.C.D. Sawyer Prize.

OOOO

"CHANGE at Bristol," said the booking-clerk to a West Country dame who was taking a ticket from a wayside station to London.

"None o' them tricks, my lad," declared the old lady. "I wants my change here, before I gets into that there train!"

MASSAGE FOR THE BLIND.



THE success which has attended the training of educated blind persons, both men and women, for the profession of massage, has been definitely established. Massage has long been regarded as one of the most suitable occupations for those who have lost their sight. The great sensitiveness and delicacy of touch which the blind so readily acquire, fits them in a peculiar way for this particular type of work, and renders them at least as capable of carrying it on successfully as the sighted, perhaps more so. There are, however, three points which cannot be too greatly emphasized in connection with the selection of candidates for training in massage, namely, that they should be well educated, physically fit, and possessed of pleasing personality. Provided these points are borne in mind, there is no reason why a blind masseur or masseuse should not attain to success.

The training extends over a period of nine-twelve months; students are prepared for the massage examination of the Incorporated Society, and also for an advanced examination in exercises which form a recognised adjunct to massage.

A really fine library of technical books in Braille type has been gathered together,

and copies of these books are presented to every student. Many of these have been compiled by an ex-student of the school, Dr. Lloyd Johnstone, who, having lost his sight in the middle of his medical career, has turned his attention to the practice of massage.

The greatest possible care is taken over the selection of women students, as the massage world is already so overcrowded with sighted masseuses. The care thus expended has been amply repaid by the success which our masseuses have achieved.

With regard to hospital appointments for our students after training, it has always been our policy to regard hospital work more or less as a continuation of training and as a means of obtaining practical experience. Since the signing of the armistice, many of the temporary military hospitals have closed down, and it is probable, therefore, that before the end of this year the majority of masseurs and masseuses will be unable to continue hospital work. This fact, however, need cause no anxiety, for masseurs and masseuses will now naturally transfer

their energies to private work, at which a decent living can undoubtedly be made. In this connection Mr. Percy L. Way, one of the Massage Instructors at the National Institute for the Blind, gives some valuable hints to masseurs and masseuses.



DINNER TIME

HOME FOR BLIND BABIES, "SUNSHINE HOUSE,"
CHORLEY WOOD, HERTS: DINNER TIME.

He says: "I hear with some amusement that it has been asked by some of the men to 'find them private practices.' There is a little error here to be corrected. A private practice cannot be 'found' for a masseur or masseuses by any conceivable organisation, but must be slowly and laboriously built up, by the grit and initiative of the men or women themselves. An organisation can only advise, back up, and financially assist to the best of its ability.

"As an old hand I may be permitted to throw out a hint which may prove of use in building up a practice, though I do so at the risk of being accused of riding a hobby-horse to death.

"It will be necessary to call personally on multitudes of doctors, and when doing so the masseur or masseuse should always go alone. The impression thus created is of the greatest importance, for one cannot expect a doctor to have much confidence in the therapeutic value of the manipulations of a man or woman who has to be led to his house for an interview and then led away again. Let us mentally picture a typical case. A masseur arrives with his guide, either for an interview with the doctor or to administer treatment to a patient. If the guide remains at the house until the masseur is ready to leave it will be almost inevitably difficult to know what to do with him. It may not always be convenient to have him sitting about in the hall or one of the living rooms, and he soon becomes a nuisance. If he wanders about outside he may return two or three times before the masseur is ready to leave, causing the maid to answer the door unnecessarily, or the masseur may have to hang about waiting for him, and himself become a nuisance. A bad impression is thus produced, which will militate against the success of the masseur. On the other hand, if the masseur arrives and leaves alone, he acts exactly as his sighted brethren, and inspires confidence in both doctor and patient. The effect of this courage and independence upon a neurasthenic patient is of great value, and such a one is encouraged to resume the battle of life by this example.

"It is always possible for a man to get a friend to take him to the house of patient or doctor for the first time, the friend tactfully disappearing before the front door is opened. If the masseur (or masseuse) be observant, as all blind people should be, he will have made sufficient mental notes on

this first journey to enable him to find his way home, and also to dispense with assistance on that particular journey in the future.

"I cannot too strongly urge the consideration of these few simple points on all who are setting out to build up a massage connection, and I speak with the authority of personal experience and not as a mere theorist."

To illustrate this, we might mention one of our blind masseuses, who, in addition to a morning appointment at a military hospital, has eight private patients. She goes about quite alone, and puts into practice the plan which Mr. Way suggests; the first time she calls on a new patient she takes a friend with her, finds out the exact route, and afterwards goes quite alone.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND

AMONG other matters before the North Staffordshire Trades and Labour Council at its meeting held at Hanley, on February 12th, special reference was made to the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind.

Mr. G. B. Rogers (Workers' Union) submitted a report as one of the representatives of the Trades Council on the Committee of the Workshops. He said that wages had been considerably increased, and efforts were being made to improve conditions of employment. He stated that the blind workers were engaged solely in making baskets for the pottery trade, and submitted that variety of employment should be introduced, so that when any of the men became unemployed they would be able to get work elsewhere. He was sure that the Trade Union movement was prepared to help them to the utmost of its power.

A blind delegate present, who said that he had been employed at the institution for sixteen years, expressed the thanks of himself and his fellow-workers to the Trades Council for their kindly interest in them.

oooo

"CIVIL Servant requires house."—Local paper. On the other hand, many houses just now require a civil servant.

OBITUARY.

THE REV. H. BRIGHT.

IT is with deep regret that we have to record the death of the Rev. H. Bright, founder of the North London Homes for Aged Christian Blind Men and Women, who passed peacefully away at the Mansion House, Hanley Road, on Saturday, January 25th. Within the short space of four months the Homes have thus been bereft of the two remarkable personalities who together founded them, and for thirty-five years carried them on with such remarkable success.

Since the death of his wife, Mrs. Ann Bright, in October, 1918, Mr. Bright had been in failing health, but we are thankful to be able to state that his illness did not involve acute suffering; it was more in the nature of a gradual loss of power and decline of activity.

The Committee of the North London Homes state that they are glad to undertake the continuation of this noble work. The members place every confidence in the present Secretary and Superintendent (the Rev. E. J. Debnam) and the Assistant-Superintendent (Miss A. R. Bishop), who devote themselves unsparingly to the welfare of the inmates. The Committee hope that all subscribers and friends will continue their support and, above all, their personal interest in the work of the Homes.

At a special meeting of the Committee, held on Wednesday, January 29th, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"The members of the Committee of the North London Homes for Aged Christian Blind Men and Women regretfully record that the esteemed Founder of the Homes, the Rev. Henry Bright, passed away at the Mansion House on Saturday, January 25th, 1919. They desire to express in some measure their sincere respect and admiration for Mr. Bright's remarkable character and career. Deprived as he was from birth of the blessing of sight, he yet passed through a life of the fullest activity, resulting in the foundation and successful development of the Homes, which will be his lasting memorial. The Committee regard Mr. Bright's achievement as a signal instance

of the triumph of personality over circumstance. In compensation for his lack of sight, they recognize that he had many valuable gifts which were all consecrated to the service of the aged blind, his financial and administrative ability, his courage, enterprise and perseverance, his marvellous memory and grasp of detail. In addition to the duties of practical superintendence, Mr. Bright was most zealous in the religious oversight of the Homes, and, until quite near the end, continued to arrange the services in the Jubilee Hall.

"The Committee feel that no man has rendered more helpful service to the blind of his generation than the Rev. Henry Bright, the blind founder of the North London Homes for Aged Christian Blind Men and Women."

HERMANN SPENCER.

It is with very great regret that we announce the death of Mr. Hermann Spencer, M.A., Oxon, who was in charge of the Research Department of the National Institute for the Blind. Mr. Spencer's death came very suddenly on February 12th, as the result of pneumonia, at the Maghull Military Hospital, Liverpool, where he was temporarily engaged on special work connected with psychotherapy.

We hope, in the next number of *The Beacon*, to publish a more detailed account of Mr. Spencer's career.

CECILIA HOME FOR BLIND WOMEN.

THE Cecilia Home for Blind Women, Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, has for many years been doing excellent work. Like many of the smaller institutions this Home has felt the pressure of the present high cost of living, and is urgently in need of funds. The House can accommodate sixteen blind women, the age of admission being from twenty to fifty-five years. Each inmate pays the small sum of £26 per annum; this includes medical attendance, laundry and a guide. A subscriber of 5s. or upwards has the privilege of placing the name of one candidate on the list for admission. Each admission will be given in the order in which applications are made, as vacancies occur in the Home.

ESPERANTO: A SECOND LANGUAGE FOR ALL.



ESPERANTO was invented by Dr. L. Zamenhof, an oculist by profession and a Polish Jew by nationality. As a boy he was distressed by the hatred existing between the different sections of the people of his native town, Bielovstok, who belonged to four races, each speaking distinct languages, and he felt sure that if they only had a common speech in which they could discuss their differences they would live in greater harmony. Such a language, to be of use, must be a neutral one, easy to learn, and capable of fulfilling the requirements of literature as well as those of ordinary and commercial life.

After studying many languages, ancient and modern, he hit upon the ingenious plan of borrowing a set of words which were most widely current in the European speech of to-day, and provided them with a grammar reduced to the simplest and most regular form possible, so that his language, though a new invention as a whole, should be in great part familiar to everybody.

In 1887, when he was about twenty-eight years old, he published the language at his own cost at Warsaw, in a little book in which he signed himself "Dr. Esperanto" (one who hopes), and the name stuck to it. Gradually, as the scheme became known, it gathered adherents in other countries, until, in 1905, it was decided to put Esperanto to a practical test as a spoken language by holding an International Congress at Boulogne. The success was beyond all expectations. Esperantists from many lands, whose mother tongues were as "double Dutch" to one another, met and conversed freely; all could follow the speeches and enjoy the plays and concerts at the theatre, and could take part in the elections of committees

for the conduct of Esperanto affairs. So thoroughly did they enjoy the experience that henceforth the International Congress became a great feature of the Esperanto movement, and one was held in a fresh country every year, with constantly increasing attendance. The greatest of these gatherings was to have taken place at Paris



HOME FOR BLIND BABIES, "SUNSHINE HOUSE,"
CHORLEY WOOD, HERTS: THE MORNING TUB.

in August, 1914, but unfortunately the war came, and we had to hurry home on the very day fixed for its opening.

The possible utility of Esperanto to the blind was recognized as early as 1902 by

Mr. Harald Thilander, of Stockholm. I remember that he wrote to me about that time that he had just found a "beautiful and so easy language which, if we could learn it, would enable us to correspond freely in Braille all over the world." Fearing that he must be indulging in silly daydreams, I replied somewhat ungraciously that I had no time for such toys. But I had quite mistaken my man. He has since shown in a most wonderful way what pluck, perseverance, and intelligence can do in spite of the most crushing bodily infirmities. At about the age of seven he was left an orphan, and became blind, somewhat deaf, and a cripple from paralysis following upon a childish malady, and was admitted into a home for incurables at Stockholm. Here he was taught Braille. When he got to know the rudiments of a language he at once applied to the chief blind institution in the country for correspondents, and it was through such an application to the British and Foreign Blind Association (now the National Institute for the Blind) that I became acquainted with him. He had an instinct for learning, and never forgot what you told him; he had a way of making his meaning clear despite his slight knowledge of English. Still, it never occurred to me that my now friend, by almost superhuman efforts, would work his way up until he had become the most notable leader of the higher education for the blind in Scandinavia.

Thilander's treatment of my discouraging reply was characteristic. For a time silence; then came a big parcel of Braille containing an Esperanto key—in English—which he had copied out himself, and a quantity of Swedish popular stories translated especially for me, because he knew that I was a keen collector of old legends of the kind. Of course, I took the bait, learnt Esperanto, and enjoyed the tales, and needed no further convincing of the value of Esperanto.

Whether he bestowed as much labour on converting all his other correspondents I cannot say, but in a year or so quite a number of us throughout Europe had taken up the language. Professor Cart, of Paris, one of the foremost of seeing Esperantists, raised a little fund and printed the key in Braille, in several languages, and started a magazine, *Esperanta Ligilo* (the Esperanto bond), of which Thilander afterwards took charge, and which circulated throughout the world, even penetrating into several countries where no

Braille books have been printed. It was discontinued in 1916, owing mainly to the difficulty of distributing the copies, but Mr. Thilander has just sent me a proof copy of a forthcoming "occasional number," which contains among other items a very interesting note on the practice of massage and other healing arts by the blind of Japan from one of its Japanese readers. Indeed, one could not wish for a better editor than Thilander; he gives translations from standard authors of many lands as well as original contributions of special interest from the readers themselves. He encourages his readers to correspond with each other by printing a list of their addresses in Braille, while two or three of them in each country act as consuls and collect and exchange information on matters relating to the blind. When the magazine is in working order again I can well imagine how eager the foreign readers will be to hear about the work at St. Dunstan's, for many of them, although blind, are teaching at schools or are at the head of blind institutions. All will have heard something of the great things Sir Arthur Pearson has accomplished, and will want to imitate him in their work for their fellow-countrymen.

I wonder if any St. Dunstaner would care to take up the language?

Even if it is regarded only as a hobby it is one which should help him to find seeing friends, for Esperantists are a kindly race, and the appearance of many blind fellow-students at the congresses has shown them that we can be accepted as equals. If a blind Esperantist should set up for himself in any profession or business in a centre where there is an Esperanto group he would immediately find himself among friends, who would help him in many little ways, both socially and in his business.

Those who wish to hear Esperanto spoken can do so any day by calling at the office of the British Esperanto Association, 17, Hart Street, London, W.C.1. Hart Street is near the British Museum Tube Station, or may be reached from Oxford Street after passing Mudie's Library. As regards Braille matters, books, etc., I shall be delighted to help anybody who will write to me on the subject.

W. PERCY MERRICK.

OOOO

THE Greatest Patriot of All: A public servant who did not strike during the War—Big Ben.

COUNTRY HOME CHANGE FOR THE BLIND.



THE Country Home Change for the Blind at Llandeud, Newport, an institution which has for its object the provision of cheerful country accommodation for blind people in need of rest and change, or a pleasant holiday, has recently branched out in a new and promising direction. For sixteen years, the Hon. Treasurer has been personally responsible for the maintenance of the Home, and during that time it has established a splendid record, no fewer than seven hundred visits having been arranged for, and a hundred and three cases of individual instruction undertaken at the classes instituted at the Home.

Towards the end of last year the Newport and Monmouthshire Blind Aid Society proposed to assist in the development and improvement of the undertaking.

It was thought that a country home change could be better supplied, and instruction for the blind more widely accomplished, if the Home itself were given up, and country cottages found and provided for intending blind visitors at various places in and around Newport.

Accordingly, on December 31st, 1917, the old Home was replaced by the country cottages, where twenty-seven blind people have already been entertained and cared for, a few still being accommodated in the Home itself.

One sees at a glance the great advantages accruing to the new scheme.

There are many blind people, to whom a quiet country cottage, where one would probably be the only visitor, or one of very few, would offer far greater attractions than a visit paid to a Home inhabited by a large party, for the former would obviate the ordeal necessitated by meeting a great many strangers.

Again with regard to the instruction provided by the Home, this can be much more easily carried out, and attendance facilitated, if the classes can be held in the vicinity of a railway station.

The difficulties of transit for those unable to travel alone are thus greatly modified,

fewer guides being necessary and valuable time being saved.

Tuition in Braille reading and writing, typing and various handicrafts, can all be obtained from the Home, and it is little wonder that the blind pupils make such rapid headway in their lessons when it is remembered that the classes meet amid such pleasant surroundings.

The new Institute, where the classes are now held, has been fully equipped with the apparatus from the old Home, arrangements having been made whereby all the educational appliances, books, musical instruments, typewriters, furniture, etc., were transferred to it for use there.

Any blind person who cares to write to the Secretaries of the Newport and Monmouthshire Blind Aid Society, at Bridge Street, Newport, will receive particulars of how to obtain a pleasant country holiday, which will not only improve their health, but brighten their mental outlook.

How much this means to a blind person can be realised at once when it is remembered that the blind acquire the habit of seeing with their minds.

It is natural to sympathise with any scheme which tends to brighten the lives of those who by physical disability—from whatever cause arising—are not able to normally take their place among the strong and able.

Where blindness is the handicap, there can be none among us who would not gladly support any effort to establish an institution for their aid.

One hopes sincerely that the Country Home Change for the Blind will continue to develop and extend, as long as there is a sightless person in our midst in need of rest and fresh air.

ALICE M. RAIKER.

O O O O

"I HAVE called regarding your vacancy for an errand boy," said the smart-looking lad as he entered a grocer's shop.

"But I don't require an errand boy," said the tradesman. "I have one already."

"No you haven't," was the ready reply, "He has just been run over."

CARE OF BLIND IN GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND.

THE fifty-ninth annual report of the Mission to the Outdoor Blind for Glasgow and the West of Scotland, submitted at the annual meeting in the Christian Institute, Glasgow, on January 29th last, showed that there are 1,664 blind persons on the register of the society in Glasgow and the six Western counties. These are not connected with asylums or institutions for the blind, and are visited and taught in their own homes by six visiting teachers. Braille and Moon systems are taught, and a free library of over 6,000 volumes in raised types is available for blind readers. Reading clubs and other social agencies have been carried on, pensions have been granted to the aged blind, and grants for trading purposes to suitable applicants. The society had also kept in touch with all blinded soldiers coming into the district. The expenditure for 1918 was £3,059, and the income £2,544, the deficiency of £515 having to be met from extraordinary income. The Ladies' Auxiliary visit 420 of the women in Glasgow, and provide knitting to 120, who are paid for work done in their own homes and sold by the society. The Home for Aged Blind Women in Glasgow has been carried on as before, and 52 women were received during the season at Miss Dunlop's Holiday Home at Biggar. The income of the Ladies' Auxiliary was £1,607, and the expenditure £1,482, leaving a credit balance of £125.

oooo

AN example of the manner in which old munitions are being turned to use is afforded by a Manchester firm which formerly made tin canister fuses. They are converting fuse cases into ornaments by adding three legs and having the whole electro-coppered.

oooo

A PURCHASER of a riverside property asked the estate agent if the river didn't sometimes overflow its banks.

"Well," replied the agent, "it isn't one of those sickly streams that are always confined to their beds."

PROPOSED HOSTEL FOR THE BLIND.

A JOINT committee, representing the Watch Committee of the Sheffield City Council, the Education Committee, the Guardians of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Unions, and the Executive Committee of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind, has had under consideration the question of making further provision for the care of blind persons in Sheffield, more particularly those who are in destitute circumstances.

A very lengthy report is presented, and the Committee record the opinion that it is desirable that a hostel or residential institution should be provided for Sheffield men and women who are afflicted with blindness, and for whose care adequate provision is not otherwise available. The Committee is of opinion, however, that, before deciding upon a scheme for Sheffield cases only, consideration should be given to a suggestion that the scheme should cover a larger area than Sheffield, and thus afford greater opportunities for classification of inmates, and probably a reduced cost per inmate.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that the following Boards of Guardians and other local authorities should be invited to meet in conference with a view to considering whether they will take part in a joint scheme: Sheffield, Ecclesall, Wortley, Penistone, Rotherham, Doncaster, Chesterfield, and Barnsley. At the rate of one blind person in each 1,370 of the population, this gives an estimated blind population of 787 in the above areas.

oooo

A GODSTONE (Surrey) lady has just recovered her wedding-ring, which disappeared five or six years ago while she was feeding a calf.

It was thought the animal had swallowed the ring, and as it could not be found the calf became known as "the golden cow."

A few days ago the cow was purchased and killed by an Oxted butcher, who, being informed of the lost ring, made a search, and discovered the ring embedded in an internal organ. The ring has been restored to the owner.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—NO. 28.

APRIL, 1919.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.



WE are issuing with this month's number of *The Beacon* a supplement that we are sure will prove of interest to our readers. It consists of an account of Sir Arthur Pearson's recent visit to Canada and the United States, drawn from reports published in the leading papers in Canada and the U.S.A. The work that Sir Arthur Pearson has done and is doing for the soldiers and sailors blinded in the Great War, and for the blind community in general, is too well known to need any emphasis here. There is, at the same time, one side of Sir Arthur's work that we do wish to lay stress on—the psychological. In the old days the blind man was merely an object of pity, a being who was suffering under an affliction, the only alleviation for which was a charity that, if we may say so, was tinged with something very akin to contempt. For passive, unintelligent pity is assuredly first-cousin to contempt. It needed a Sir Arthur Pearson, himself suffering under the handicap of blindness (it is largely through him that we have learnt to substitute the word "handicap" for "affliction"), to prove to the world that the range of occupation open to the blind man was a far larger one than had ever been thought possible, that normality and virility should be the two chief words in the blind man's dictionary, that independence in the best sense of the word was the goal which all blind people should strive to obtain.

But let us hear what the *New York Evening Post*, which is one of the most influential papers in America, has to say of Sir Arthur :—

"He is a man of action and of instantaneous decisions, of absolute self-confidence, large will-power, and an enduring mental energy. He dominates other people. It is possible to imagine him, a blind man, leading a regiment into battle, over the top and into the enemy's trenches. He could find his way and lead it. He could put confidence into every man behind him and command him. He is the sort of person whom people fear, and admire, and look to in an emergency."

The interviewer goes on to say that everyone who met Sir Arthur Pearson during his stay in New York was bound to admit that the accepted meaning of the word "blind" had been swiftly and miraculously changed.

Here then we have assuredly a working proposition as regards not only the attitude of the blind to the sighted, but for those possessed of sight to their less fortunate fellow citizens.

It is not given to every man and woman to possess those attributes which the writer of the *New York Evening Post* discovered in Sir Arthur Pearson, but it is possible for every man and woman, no matter how physically handicapped they may be, to prove their unconquerable right to live in the world as competent and useful citizens, and to be a lasting example to those of their fellow-beings who are in complete possession of their physical faculties.

THE TASMANIAN SOCIETY FOR BLIND, DEAF, AND DUMB.

WE have received an interesting account of the very valuable work which is being undertaken for the care of the blind and the deaf and dumb in Tasmania. The Society is installed at Hobart, and has just attained its majority, having been in existence for twenty-one years. Like so many other institutions, the Tasmanian Society has suffered greatly through war conditions. Prices of material increased to a considerable extent, but the Committee state that they were fortunate in being able to secure sufficient material to keep all hands in their factory fully employed, and that they found a ready market for all their goods. In this department there are seventeen blind and two deaf and dumb workers. In the Educational Department general efficiency has been maintained. The methods of instruction in the school for the deaf are both oral and manual. Each pupil, upon entering the school, is placed in the Oral Department, where he remains unless his progress is greatly below what it should be. In this case he passes into the Manual Department, where the method of teaching is by writing, manual spelling, and the use of signs. In both departments the same subject-matter is taught, and it is possible for a pupil to receive just as good a general education by the one method as by the other, the main difference being that the orally taught have the added accomplishment of speech and speech-reading.

In the school for the blind especial care is given to the study of music. Eight out of the ten pupils at this school received distinctions in music examinations during the year. In addition to the ordinary subjects, type-writing and manual work are taught. In all branches the teaching has been excellent, and the work of the children most creditable. The Committee expresses itself as most gratified at the numerous appreciative letters which it has received from parents bearing on their children's healthy appearance when they go home for the holidays. The good results are due to the healthy location of the schools, and also to the healthy moral, social, and educational environment in which the children live.

A BLIND MAN'S SOLILOQUY ON THE FOUR SEASONS.

(Written on behalf of St. Dunstan's Hostel, by
Captain G. Thornton Bridgewater, R.A.F.)

SPRING.

THE budding shoots of Springtime, the lanes
of green anew,
The fresh life that's awakening, the joy in
every view,
Sweet violets and bluebells are carpeting the glen,
The birds of air are nesting in the hidings of the fen.

SUMMER.

Summer's yellow waving corn, the flaming sun of
June,
The gentle flicker of the stars, the sombre waning
moon,
The rich haze of the summer heat that dances on
the sea,
The girls and boys who frolic on the uplands of
the lea.

AUTUMN.

Golden Autumn's splendour, and the harvesting
begun,
Pears and apples gathered to the store when work
is done.
Nature working wonders, and the season fades away
Like the wanderer that's tired and the soul that's
had its day.

WINTER.

Winter heralding the story, Christmas comes around,
Memories of joy and sadness, love and cheer abound,
The holly and the mistletoe, the snowman and the
fun,
The best thoughts of the season, goodwill to everyone.

The beauties of the seasons come and go, they pass
me by,
The varying shades of colour, the glories of the sky ;
I see not Spring or Summer, nor Autumn leaves of
gold,
Nor Winter's snow-white purity I knew in days of
old.

But I can hear the music of the waves, the rushing
wind,
And the laughter and the happiness of others, tho'
I'm blind ;
And I feel very grateful for the thoughts that make
me glad,
Of the friends who bring me comfort when I might
be feeling sad.

OOOO

THE subscription rate for *The Beacon*
for Great Britain and the Colonies is
3s. per annum, post free ; for foreign
countries, 4s. 2d. Single copies can be
bought for 3d., or 4d. post free.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

BY BEN PURSE.



NOW that a sum of money has been sanctioned by the Treasury to be placed at the disposal of Local Advisory Committees, established to take cognisance of the welfare of the Blind, we may very properly begin to think of the particular steps to be taken in order to justify the expenditure of such monies. Already these Committees are nearing completion in the matter of their personnel, and it is highly gratifying to find that so many people of influence and social standing have consented to serve. It is unfortunately true, however, that one or two apparently irreconcilable interests are standing aloof, but this attitude was only to be expected, and as is usually the case, they will be privileged to fall in when all the spade work has been performed, and the advantages for which they have never striven are available.

In thinking over and defining the functions of the respective committees, the fact must not be overlooked that for the present, at all events, they are purely administrative bodies, possessing no executive functions. We believe that their future usefulness will be largely determined by the way they intend embracing their present opportunities, and it is sincerely to be hoped that they will enter upon their new tasks with avidity and enthusiasm, without which it will be difficult to overcome many of the obstacles by which they are confronted.

The principle of conceding fuller and more direct representation to the Blind is also on its trial, and we are very hopeful that the Blind industrial worker particularly will rise to the occasion and efficiently discharge the duties with which he is now entrusted, so that the administrative experience he will thus gain will enable him to take his rightful place in the determination of his own social and economic conditions.

It will be the distinct business of these Committees to clearly ascertain the needs of

the Blind throughout each area, making a comprehensive survey of every aspect of the problem, preparing schemes and embodying their recommendations in reports to the Central Advisory Committee. It is rightly assumed that in this way, not only will reliable information be available, but if curative treatment is to be applied, adequate provision must be guaranteed as a necessary corollary of such inquiries. Though at the moment there is no specific undertaking given by the Government to this effect, still it is only reasonable to assume that such obligations will be discharged, and that funds will be voted by Parliament for this specific purpose.

It will be obvious that merely to "spy out the nakedness of the land" without attempting to apply remedial measures, could only lead to the forfeiture of all confidences, and be fraught with the gravest disappointment to all those whose labours have been directed for a long and strenuous period to the elucidation of social and industrial problems. To withhold the means of help at this junction would create an intolerable situation, from which it is difficult to see any satisfactory or happy means of escape.

There has been some doubt existing in the minds of many people interested in the solution of our present difficulties, concerning the setting-up of these Local Committees. Now, however, that they are virtually called into existence, it is the business of each and every one of us to make the administrative and advisory machinery as complete and comprehensive as possible, in order that the fullest and most practical results may thereby be realised. It is not anticipated that the machinery at present devised approaches perfection, but there can be no doubt that if all concerned bend their energies to the solution of the immediate difficulties before them, the detailed working of the scheme will ultimately be as nearly perfected as can reasonably be expected. The Blind Community is anxiously anticipating tangible

results to be forthcoming from the report of the Inter-departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, and it is incumbent upon these local Advisory Committees to speedily justify their existence if they are to retain the confidence of those on whose behalf they have been primarily called into being.

The census of the Blind having now been completed, the Local Committees ought speedily to get to work on the preparation of schemes designed to deal with the varied phases of the problem, for if a clearly prepared plan of classification were made many of the apparent difficulties would appear much easier of solution. In this matter there is great need of uniformity of method and it would be prudent for the Central Committee to prescribe the form which such classification should take, in order to secure something approaching co-ordination and unification both in method and treatment. Of course, we are fully conscious of the fact that the practical achievements of these Committees can only be realised if the Government places money at our disposal for effecting the necessary changes. It is unthinkable, however, that they could have permitted the Advisory Committee to so far proceed with its labours, and at the eleventh hour to withhold the necessary financial help.

We are very hopeful therefore, that in the near future it will be possible to report progress along the lines indicated above, for everyone interested in the solution of the grave problem before us is eagerly anticipating speedy and radical changes.

oooo

THE President of the Local Government Board has appointed Mr. G. Locker-Lampson, M.P., to be Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind. Mr. Godfrey Locker-Lampson, who was called to the Bar in 1906, served for four years in the Foreign Office and the Diplomatic Service at The Hague and Petrograd. He holds a commission in the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, and was A.D.C. 4th Corps in 1916. He unsuccessfully contested the Chesterfield Division of Derbyshire in 1906, and was elected as Unionist member for Salisbury in 1910, and as a Coalition Unionist for the Wood Green Division of Middlesex last December. He acted as private secretary to the Home Secretary in 1917.

BRADFORD INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

THE Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind held its fifty-eighth annual meeting last month.

According to the report which was issued on that occasion, 140 blind persons were employed by the institution during the year, and the wages and allowances paid to them amounted to £28,047. In connection with the Frederick Priestman Home for the Blind, a boot repairing department has been added to the other branches of work. Five pupils from the National Institute for the Blind in London, and also a Bradford pupil, are now being trained there and have made excellent progress in their work. Other inmates of the Home have been busily engaged in brush-making and firewood chopping. The system of payment to blind workers has been revised. Trade Union rates plus trade war bonuses are paid in each department, and in addition, the men receive a grant as compensation for blindness which varies from 8s. to 12s. per week. The women now receive pre-war rates of pay plus a flat rate compensation grant of 12s. per week. The question of blind workers who cannot earn sufficient for their proper maintenance has been carefully considered. Outdoor relief is to be granted to blind workpeople whereby their total gross income shall be raised to 20s. per week for a single person, 30s. per week for man and wife, 4s. per week for the first child, 3s. for the second child and 2s. for the third. The co-operation of the Guardians and the City Council with the committee of the institution has produced a complete scheme for the welfare of the blind which is a credit to all concerned.

oooo

SWANSEA has recently lost one of its best known characters, Mr. David Richards, aged sixty-five, a collector for the Institution for the Blind, and formerly a newsagent, who has passed away. He had been ailing for two or three weeks, but was taken very ill, and died at his residence, 50, Garden Street. He leaves a widow (who is also blind) and several grown-up children.

MR. HERMANN SPENCER.



MR. HERMANN SPENCER, whose death we recorded in last month's number of *The Beacon*, was born at Menai Bridge, Anglesea, on July 25th, 1892. From birth he had sight in one eye only. He was educated at the King Alfred School, Hampstead, at the Glasgow High School, and at Dulwich College, which he attended from September, 1904, until July, 1911.

During his last two years at this College he was a member of the Classical Sixth, a prefect, and one of the school's best swimmers and divers. He was the head of the school in history. In October, 1911, he entered Jesus College, Oxford, as a Classical Exhibitioner, having been also awarded a Leaving Exhibition from his school. He took a full share in the many-sided life of the College, including the activities of the Boat Club. He was also President of the University Gymnastic Club, and captained the Oxford team against Cambridge. A serious accident to his eye deprived him of these recreations, and their place was thenceforward taken by literature and music. In 1913 he was awarded second-class honours in Classical Mods., and was reading for the Final School when the war broke out in the summer of 1914. Mr. Spencer made persistent efforts to get into the Army, and was finally attested, but his services were never utilized. This was one of the greatest disappointments of his life. Having kept his terms at Oxford, he was no longer bound to be in residence, and consoled himself by a period of strenuous service in the Malvern College Mission, Canning Town, where he displayed great skill in the masterly and sympathetic handling of large classes of East End boys.

In 1915 he took Second Class Honours in the Final Classical School at Oxford. For the next two years he was attached, as a lay assistant, to the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, where he also qualified as a masseur, and acquired a

thorough knowledge of anatomy and of the muscular and nervous systems. He was entrusted with the charge of military wards, where he gained valuable experience in the treatment of shell-shock cases. He developed an extraordinary power in the successful treatment of these cases, wherein his knowledge of psychology stood him in good stead.

At the end of 1917 he was once more a patient in the ophthalmic ward of a hospital, where the most expert and devoted skill could not prevent the loss of the little sight he had till then enjoyed. After a long period of enforced rest, he turned his attention to medical psychology, and undertook congenial and useful work as consultant to the Islington War Pensions Committee. In this capacity he was able to restore not a few broken and discharged soldiers to health, and to instil into them such a measure of self-reliance that they could resume their places among their fellows and earn an independent livelihood. It was at this time that the War Office authorised him to take part in the course of instruction in shell-shock treatment provided for Army Medical officers at the Maghull Military Hospital, near Liverpool.

In the summer of 1918 Mr. Spencer was offered a post on the Staff of the National Institute for the Blind, and he did most valuable work in the Research Department, where his labours covered a wide field. Among the papers (written after much close investigation) which lie before us as we write, are recommendations relating to :—

1. The After-Care of the Blind.
2. Revision of Arithmetical Calculations.
3. A Report on the Practice of Electrotherapy by the Blind.
4. Amateur and Commercial Gardening for the Blind.
5. The Training of Craft Teachers of the Blind.

Mr. Spencer was of an inventive turn of mind, and often discussed with the Secretary - General the construction of various appliances for the use of the

Blind. In January, 1919, he obtained leave of absence from the Institute, and was sent by the War Office to the Maghull Military Hospital, in order to take the three months' course in Psychology, Psychotherapy, and Psychopathology. These last six weeks were amongst the happiest of his life. He was keenly interested in his work, and his patients made good progress under his care. He was also preparing for publication the lectures on "Psychotherapy" given by Major Bernard Hart, R.A.M.C. This work, however, was never finished. He was taken ill on February 6th with influenza, followed by bronchial pneumonia, and early on the morning of Thursday, February 13th, he passed peacefully away. His body lies in the pretty old churchyard of Maghull Parish Church.

So varied was the work accomplished by Mr. Spencer, in spite of the handicap of his blindness, that it has been impossible to do more than touch on the many interests which filled his life. Much of his leisure was devoted to literary work of all kinds. His greatest output was perhaps in lyrical verse, many examples of which appeared in the *Isis* during his undergraduate days. Beyond a waltz dedicated to and published by the National Air Fleet Committee, none of his other literary or musical compositions were known to any but his most intimate friends. But even the most critical amongst those who saw his work appreciated it highly, especially a privately printed poem in memory of his dearly-loved youngest brother, a subaltern of seventeen, who was killed at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle.

There seems no doubt that an eminently successful career awaited Mr. Spencer, and we gather from letters written on receiving the news of his death, that great things were expected of him by his friends. One of his tutors wrote :

"He was the pluckiest pupil in the face of odds that I have ever had, and one of the most cheerful. The way in which he stuck to all his pursuits, and even developed new ideas as to helping other people when he might have asked help himself, was simply wonderful; and he had a great fund of original ideas, always seeing things from new points of view. I couldn't, of course, quite see where he would fit in, but I felt that he would certainly leave his mark somewhere."

A wonderful tribute comes from a master at Dulwich, who says : "He was indeed an heroic spirit. From first to last he has fought with undaunted courage, helping others no less than he helped himself, and ever rejoicing to give of his very best in the service of his fellows. . . . His life has been the most perfect instance of unflinching bravery and self-sacrifice that I can recall."

Since the above was written we have received from Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Rows, R.A.M.C., of the Red Cross Military Hospital, Moss Side, Maghull, Liverpool, the following appreciative memoir, which will emphasise the loss we have here to deplore :—

During his work amongst the blind the late Mr. H. Spencer was able to recognise to what an extent the condition of those who have unfortunately lost their sight is influenced by psychic factors, and to appreciate that by suitable psycho-therapeutic treatment and education their anxiety-states can be relieved. His own experience after he became blind, and the success of his efforts to adapt himself to his disability, demonstrated that much might be done to enable those who had lost their sight to improve their outlook on the future by widening their interests, and to overcome the feelings of helplessness and hopelessness which so easily arise under such conditions.

In order to gain a deeper knowledge and to acquire a training which would allow him to assist the blind more satisfactorily, Mr. Spencer came to this hospital in December last to attend a course of instruction on mental illnesses and psycho-therapy. During the six weeks before his illness he devoted himself with keen interest and gratifying success to the study of the scientific aspect of the subject, and to the investigation and treatment of the patients placed under his care. But, unfortunately, in the middle of February he had an attack of influenza, and succumbed to the pneumonia which followed. His death was deplored by all his colleagues, who had more and more appreciated his determined efforts to conquer the difficulties with which he was confronted. We deeply regret the loss of a friend and colleague, and we feel also that there has been removed one who, if he had lived, would have rendered invaluable assistance in developing the schemes of Sir Arthur Pearson for rendering aid to those whose life has been so much narrowed by loss of vision.

THE ART OF SLIPPER-MAKING.



HERE may be seen at the Sales Dépôt of the National Institute for the Blind, 206, Great Portland Street, W., a variety of soft, attractive-looking slippers, in all colours and of all sorts and sizes. They are made, mounted, and completed entirely by blind girls and women, who are dependent for a livelihood on the proceeds derived from the sale of their

work. The slippers are composed of silk and woollen or tinsel braid, which the girls are taught to plait on a wooden last. When the latter is completely covered, and the shape of the foot satisfactorily formed, the slipper is removed and mounted on a strong leather sole. Slippers of black and sober brown, green and grey, for elderly ladies; of soft saxe blue, interspersed with silver, heliotrope and silver, or two shades of mauve, suitable for the younger generation—all this variety and more I noticed when paying a visit to the dépôt, where were also the daintiest and most delightful things for Baby in pale blue and silver, and other equally fascinating colours. The great advantage attaching to this style of slipper, and one not often to be met with in the ordinary run of soft footwear, is the fact that they can be neatly and satisfactorily re-soled—a piece of work which is

undertaken at the Sales Dépôt at a small cost. Nor is the price of the slippers themselves at all high, when one remembers the cost of material nowadays, and takes into consideration the fact of their extreme daintiness. The prices vary, of course, according to quality of material and size of slipper, but the range for all varieties is from four to eight shillings. Certainly they have only to be seen to be appreciated and desired, and anyone in need of a pair of cosy slippers for themselves or their little ones, or as a present for a friend, would do well to pay a visit to 206, Great

Portland Street, and inspect the large variety on view there. Not only would they thus obtain a useful article, but they would be supporting a most deserving cause. The blind slipper-makers have all come to their work totally unskilled, and by touch alone have learned the entire art of slipper-making. Looking at the beautifully completed, neat work of the finished article, it is almost impossible



A LESSON IN BRAILLE READING.

to believe that the slippers have been made by women who had become blind before they learned to make them. When we remember that only by good sales can these workers hope to earn a livelihood, we would surely wish to encourage the industry by supporting it with a purchase which will embrace the dual result of helping the blind and securing an attractive pair of slippers. ALICE M. RAIKER.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS FOR THE BLIND.

THE second Annual Report of the above Association for the year 1918, states that much has been done throughout the year to improve the schools and facilities for their working. The Madras Government sanctioned grants for the travelling allowance of pupils, for boarding charges and for additional staff, while they have included in school books references to defective children and made arrangements to exhibit the work done by them and to deliver informal school addresses on kindness to the helpless, with a view to drawing public attention to the need of education for the defective children. The Baroda State has arranged to start two schools for the two special teachers that have been trained, while Burma has improved one of its schools at Kemendine by procuring the services of competent teachers. In all the schools in India there were more than 550 pupils under instruction on the 31st December, 1918, against nearly 450 on that date in the previous year.

POULTRY KEEPING.

SIR ARTHUR GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, speaking at the International Poultry Conference at the Royal Agricultural Society, said that the Board fully recognised the importance of poultry farming. Three things were essential for the future success of the industry, viz., a more direct instruction, demonstration by means of small farms run on a commercial basis, and research. He hoped that these would all be insured by the formation of a national institute.

Mr. Edward Brown, President of the International Association of Poultry Instructors and Investigators, said that during the war European stocks of poultry had been reduced by 180 million. They must aim at producing better poultry and more, but particularly better.

Captain F. P. Pierson Webber, hon. secretary, National Service Poultry Club, Stratford-on-Avon, who lost his sight over

fifteen years ago, said there was no reason why the blind man should not take up poultry keeping with practical commercial success.

Mr. Bennett Opie, London Egg Market, said that an English egg ought to fetch more than a Danish egg in our own country, but we should find at the end of the next fortnight, when eggs would be at the cheapest, that Danish eggs would be selling at 2s. a 100 more than English. The reason was to be found in our wastefulness in the collection of eggs directly they became cheap. This, of course, was not true of scientific poultry farmers.

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE.

THE fifth of the Season's Concerts was given in the Armitage Hall on the evening of Monday, February 24th, Dr. Davan Wetton (Organist and Director of the Music at the Foundling Hospital, and a professor at the Royal College of Music) being responsible for the programme, which took the form of an Organ Recital, interspersed with songs and 'cello solos. The items were as follows:—

1. Organ Solo— "Grand Chœur" ... *Hollins*
 2. Songs—
 - (a) "On a Time the Amorous Silvy" *Parry*
 - (b) "An Eviskay Love Lilt" *M. Kennedy Jones*
 3. Organ Solos—(a) "Choral Prelude" *Bach*
(b) "Fugue in G" *Bach*
 4. Violoncello Solo—"Meditation" *Massenet*
 5. Organ Solo—"Fantasie Rustique" *Wolstenholme*
(Un Souvenir Nuptial)
 6. Song—"The Throstle" *M. V. White*
 7. Violoncello Solos—
 - (a) "Celtic Lament" *Foulds*
 - (b) "Gavotte" *Mehul*
 8. Organ Solos—
 - (a) "Andantino in D flat" *H. Davan Wetton*
 - (b) "March in A flat" *H. Davan Wetton*
- Soprano*—Miss Isabel Jansen.
'Cellist—Miss Edith Lake, A.R.C.M.
Accompanist—Miss N. Davan Wetton.
Organist—Dr. Davan Wetton, F.R.C.O.

The whole programme was much enjoyed, but special notice must be made of the delightful 'cello playing of Miss Lake, a young 'cellist who, undoubtedly, has a promising career before her. She is, we understand, to give her first public recital in the autumn, and we have no hesitation in predicting that she will be listened to with interest and appreciation.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

MUSIC TEACHERS.

THE register of music teachers is growing, but only slowly, so we shall be glad to receive new names. A recognised musical degree or a testimonial from a qualified musician is all that is required for registration.

MUSIC.

We heartily welcome suggestions as to what music shall be published, and we are ready, in cases of emergency, to lend the manuscript before the piece in demand is actually issued. This arrangement has already proved a great convenience to many.

PRIVATE TUNERS.

The number of applications for our tuners is steadily increasing, and, as steps are being taken to make our work more widely known, there is every promise that the growth will be more rapid during the present year. So we shall be glad to hear of all those who would like to have orders passed on to them, especially tuners in the London area.

For those seeking posts, forms and particulars of our tuning test may be had on application.

H. C. WARRILOW.

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF BRAILLE WRITERS.

WE have before us an interesting report of the work which is being done by the Association of Braille Writers of Victoria, Australia. The object of this association is to provide literature for the blind throughout the State of Victoria. There are 1,200 blind persons in this State, and the return of soldiers who have become blinded in the war has given a fresh impetus to the work and an increasing need for help. Twenty of these men have already returned to Victoria, and the Committee feels that the least that can be given them in return for their services to their country is to ensure by every means possible that they be placed

in a position successfully to fight their stern battle against the handicap under which they suffer. The majority of the returned soldiers have had the advantage of being trained at St. Dunstan's Hostel, and the Committee expresses its deep gratitude to Sir Arthur Pearson for his wonderful work in establishing such a home for the re-education of these men.

The library belonging to this association consists of 8,000 volumes, and books are now delivered to and collected from readers free of charge, so that each home is, as it were, provided with its own library. Furthermore, a teacher of Braille is sent to any blind person anywhere in Victoria without expense to the pupil. The occupation of re-copying worn-out books has been entrusted to some of the blind people who are unfitted for other than light employment. The work is done in their own homes, and is well paid.

Since the establishment of free carriage, the circulation of library books has greatly increased. Last year 8,313 volumes were circulated, and there were 260 readers. A Braille magazine which is edited at and issued from the library monthly is much appreciated. The copies are embossed by hand.

There is a Braille music section, which has proved a source of great pleasure to music-lovers.

The Committee states that much of the success which has attended the efforts of the association is due to the constant help of its voluntary Braille writers. It is hoped that a new library will be erected shortly; this is rendered necessary by reason of the increasing number of books and consequent lack of space.

The Committee is confident that the new library will not fail for lack of support, since its inestimable value to all who lack the precious gift of sight is being more and more fully realized.

OOOO

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

MEMORANDUM ON BURMESE EMBOSSSED SCRIPT.



THE system of embossing which is called Braille—after the name of the Frenchman who invented it—is based on a standard character of six dots arranged in two vertical lines of three dots each. The various possible combinations of the six dots in this standard character give a total of sixty-three signs, but in practice some of these combinations are eliminated in individual symbols for considerations of touch legibility, *e.g.*:—

(a) To attain real facility of reading it is only possible to employ as separate characters one of the six single dot signs, the rest having to be reserved for combination purposes. (b) The characters which are composed solely of dots in one or other of the vertical lines would be indistinguishable from the similar characters in the other vertical line, so that one or other set of these characters has to be eliminated from the list of separate symbols. (c) The tactile field of the finger being insufficiently extended to cover more than two-thirds of the height of the standard character, it is advisable to avoid as far as may be frequent variations from the upper to the lower signs. These considerations, which are more in the

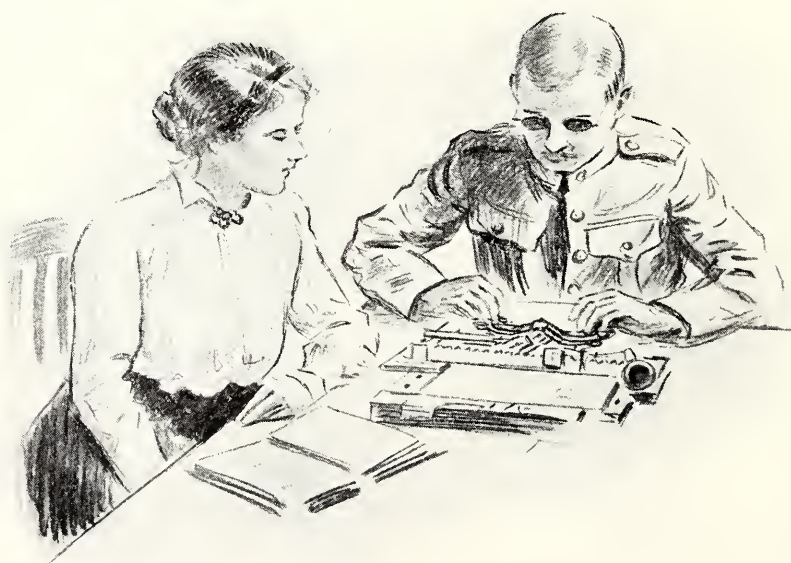
nature of the art than of the science of embossing, decided us to revise the old Braille script which had been in vogue in Burma for some fifteen years, as that system had been devised on a purely theoretic basis, and did not include the empirical knowledge which lies behind the systems of Europe and America.

In the old system there were three further technical disadvantages: (a) The frequent recurrence of few dot characters made it less able to stand the wear and tear to which manuscripts must be subjected. (b) The system was not graded as other systems mostly are, so that all the possible

characters were incorporated in it on the elementary basis, thus taxing the memory of the beginner unduly. (c) This single grading of the system made it difficult to find adequate room for contracting its bulk.

Our decision to revise the old script was further strengthened by the discovery that

(a) it was admitted by its promoters to be imperfect and tentative; (b) it had only been attempted by some sixty persons; (c) there were only ten persons who could be called readers of the script; (d) of the competent readers none could be said to be expert; (e) the time taken to learn the script was in fact very disproportionate



A LESSON IN BRAILLE WRITING.

to the degree of efficiency; (*f*) the total stock of literature existing in the script consisted of school reading books, most of which needed to be reproduced, and all of which were out of date with the revised curriculum of the Government.

After much discussion and investigation it was decided to make the new script rigidly phonetic, and to take the common symbols of Europe and America as the basis of this phonetic adaptation. The work of Mr. Grant Brown was taken as the basis for the phonetic analysis of Burmese.

In making this decision we had in view the possibility that some of our pupils would require to learn English, and also that the numerical and musical notations, which are intimately connected with this system, could be taken over *en bloc*.

The justification for adopting Mr. Grant Brown as our guide in the phonetical analysis of the Burmese language lies chiefly in its success. We found that six of the vowel sounds could be taken direct from the English Braille, and the remaining six symbols were selected more or less arbitrarily but with the technical construction in view. The seventeen consonantal sounds we dealt with in the same way, except in one or two cases in which we were able to borrow a single character from the second grade of English Braille to do duty for Mr. Grant Brown's digraphs.

Thus our phonetic alphabet contained some twenty-nine letters, and it was only required to adopt the English comma, fullstop, hyphen, and bracket, and to assign symbols for tone marks to complete Grade One.

In drafting Grade One, our chief concern was to secure clarity of script, with the use of the minimum variety of character in order to smooth the path of the learner. In achieving this we sacrificed space to some degree, so that, when compared with the superseded system, the new script was at a disadvantage of about 16 per cent. per bulk. Compensating this, however, we were in possession of a reserve of twenty-eight characters out of which to construct a second grade, which being a systematically contracted form of the First would be very easily acquired by such pupils as were of sufficient mental acumen to proceed with their education on academic lines.

This principle of gradation hardly needs vindication in theory, seeing that it is the

accepted principle of all European countries and of America (English Braille has four grades of difficulty if we include shorthand); but it may be worth emphasizing that the difficulty of learning a second grade is not commensurate with that of the first; (*a*) because it is not a *de novo* effort of memory, but rather a following of inference; (*b*) because the pupil gains self-confidence when he has arrived at the definite point of knowing that he is able to read.

The contractions which make up our Second Grade are of four classes: (*a*) combinations of letters which occur only at the beginning of words; (*b*) combinations of letters which occur only at the ends of words; (*c*) the representing of single words by single characters; (*d*) the representing of groups of words by groups of characters.

The drafting of this Second Grade has been a prolonged process of experiment and calculation, the last phase being the inclusion of some ten words and phrases of almost exclusively scriptural use, on the assumption that Scripture would furnish the bulk of our embossed literature, and would consequently justify that proportion of special contractions. By this Second Grade we have saved 37 per cent. of space on our First Grade, which represents a gain of 32 per cent. of space on the superseded script.

The question of spacing words and phrases has been forced upon our attention all the time. It was palpable from the first that we could not reproduce the running script in which Burmese is written for sighted readers: (*a*) Because Touch is a localising sense and requires clearly defined objects for a really rapid appreciation; (*b*) because a running script would deprive us of the important contracting property of characters which lies in being able to use them variously as they occur in isolation or in combination. On the other hand the monosyllabic nature of the Burmese language practically rules out the possibility of spacing each word, since to place a blank space after every word would mean that about 40 per cent. of the paper used would not be written. We arrived, therefore, at the principle that spacing must always be done for the convenience of the reader; words which must be read together to give an integral meaning are written together. If an occasional group be too long to be easily analysed by the touch, it is broken up by hyphens as may be convenient. Thus our

spacing acts as a sort of subtle punctuation. This invariably means that the writer has to pause when he comes to an unfamiliar combination, to consider whether it ought to be spaced or unspaced, but this is not at all unreasonable if we consider that the art of writing only exists in order to minister to the art of reading.

Whether it will ever be necessary or desirable to create a Third Grade of Burmese is highly problematic ; but should it prove to be practicable two lines of further contraction are possible : (a) Symbols which are used only at the beginning of words can be given a second significance when standing at the ends of words. (b) Combinations of vowel symbols in groups of two, three, or four can be given arbitrary values without any confusion as we have no representations of diphthongs.

In the thirteen months of experimenting which have gone to the formulating of this system, we have produced some sixty manuscript volumes, embracing books for reading, arithmetic, geography, prayers, hymns, grammar ; and we have also a stock of forty embossed tin plates from which copies may be printed, including a primer of reading exercises arranged scientifically with a view to developing touch, and acquiring the system with the greatest facility.

W. H. JACKSON.

S. Michael's, Kemendine, January, 1919.

MESSAGE BRANCH.

ON March 19th, in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind, a most interesting and delightful lecture was given to blind masseurs and masseuses by Mr. Cortlandt MacMahon, M.A., Oxon., on "Functional and Organic Disturbances of Speech and Voice, and the Restoration of the Chest and Lungs following Gunshot Wounds and other Affections of the Chest."

The lecture was greatly appreciated, and Mr. MacMahon was heartily invited to come again and lecture to the Blind masseurs, masseuses, and present massage students.

* * *

At the recent Massage Examination of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, Miss Winifred Horler successfully qualified.

YOU WILL COME.

YOU will come in the early Springtime
To the woods where the wild flowers
grow ;

You will 'list to the zephyrs sighing,
And their message you'll learn to know ;
All your hopes and fears I'll share them, too,
And down where the violets blow,
I can tell you my schemes, and a thousand
dreams
Of joy that the heart doth know.

You will come in the gladsome Summer
To the garden where roses sweet
Will greet you with their perfume rare,
And the song of the birds be replete ;
You will pass where the rich verbenas grow,
And lilies begirt the stream ;
Fond tales of love will re-echo above
The vale where sweet poppies dream.

You will come in the golden Autumn,
Ere the harvest days are o'er ;
You will keep a tryst in the twilight
By the orchard in old Glendore ;
Then must I tell you I love you,
Perchance you may say me "Nay ;"
While the moon is asleep, and no star doth
peep,
You will kiss me and whisper, "Stay !"

BEN PURSE.

24th February, 1919.

oooo

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

It may interest your readers to hear that on February 25th the National Library for the Blind had their record day for circulation, despatching 543 volumes from Westminster to various readers — the greatest number hitherto sent out on a single day being 521. Some imagination is needed in order to appreciate the work entailed, as about 500 volumes arrive at the Library each day to be unpacked and shelved, in addition to those which have to be taken from the shelves, packed up, and despatched to all parts of the United Kingdom. This, with the necessary work of booking and filing, means that the Library's staff is kept hard at it during office hours.

TEACHING BLIND CHILDREN IN BURMA.



THE Report of St. Michael's and St. Mary's Schools for Blind Boys and Girls, for the year 1917-18, contains much interesting matter. The previously existing mixed school has been divided into two institutions, the school for blind girls occupying part of the building of St. Mary's, Kemendine, and a school for blind boys remaining in the original quarters at St. Michael's, Kemendine. A normally sighted pupil has been placed in each of the schools to be a present help to the blind children at their work and play, and to grow up with instinctive knowledge of the requirements of the work, which is so much more valuable than laboriously acquired instruction. Attempts have been made to combat the tendency to exclusiveness and isolation, both by getting the children to mix more freely with the sighted children who occupy the mission schools in their respective compounds, and by taking them out on a variety of visits and expeditions.

There have been a good many changes on the staff, and amongst new developments it is noted that a professional cheroot-maker visits each school once a week, and an effort is being made to secure a medical student to come and instruct the pupils in the technicalities on physiology necessary as a

foundation for the scientific practice of massage.

The proportion of teachers to scholars is one which may cause some surprise at the first glance. There are the principal, five teachers, one student teacher, one matron, three visiting teachers, and twenty-one pupils. In justification of this seeming disproportion, it is pointed out that the schools are the seed-plot of a provincial work; a reasonable estimate of the possible number of pupils of all kinds obtainable in the future runs into four figures, and the average pro-

portion of staff to scholars in other similar institutions which have reached a state of stablisation is one to six.

Among the difficulties encountered in the curriculum, reference is made to the fact that there is a great diversity of capacity amongst the pupils, who are drawn from all over the province, including representatives of three races, and range

in age from one baby girl of five to the senior boy of nineteen.

Among the subjects mentioned under the head of curriculum, it is admitted that music is not one of the strong points. In explanation of this it is pointed out that a remunerative musical profession is practically non-existent either among the Burmans or the resident Europeans; the Burmans have not yet arrived at the stage which identifies music with devotion, and there is



A LESSON IN BRAILLE SHORTHAND.

no obvious musical talent amongst the pupils. Burmese music would be very difficult to fit into a systematic school curriculum, as it demands very little regular practice or application, having no exact form of composition and no difficult technique or execution.

Perhaps the greatest experimental adventure of the year has been the changing of the method of writing Burmese in embossed characters. The old system was only known to sixty or so, and of these not more than three or four could read or write with anything approaching practical facility and accuracy. The new system is as nearly as possible rigidly phonetic, all the sound-symbols except six have been taken over directly from English Braille, either Grade I. or Grade II. All the literary work of the schools has to be done from manuscripts laboriously written by teachers and scholars. The children are encouraged to help in the multiplying of books by copying them in their spare time, and a small remuneration is given for every correct sheet of manuscript handed in. The teachers spend a good proportion of their own free time either in copying books or in dictating to the pupils, and in this way some thirty small volumes have been produced in the last six months.

Clay-modelling has always been a feature of the school. During the past year the clay-modelling course has been systematised. Paper-folding and bead-threading have been added for the small children. A planned course of cane-weaving has been introduced, and a beginning has been made with bamboo-work. The providing for the industrial or professional life of the pupils is, of course, a matter of supreme importance. Two of the boys are specialising in academic work with a view to trying to qualify either as pleaders or as teachers. One boy is definitely being trained to earn his living by supplying our institutions with embossed books, and another is definitely following a course which will qualify him to come on to the staff of the school. The weaving of thinpyu mats, the making of cane-work baskets and chairs, rolling cheroots, and weaving cloth on the "improved" loom are already being taught. The teaching of scientific massage is a definite part of our programme of development, and various other possibilities, such as elementary carpentry, rough pottery, poultry-farming, and box-making are being kept in view. When rounded off in an efficiently organised "after-care" scheme, it should spell finis.

THE TORQUAY HOME TEACHING SOCIETY.

AT the annual meeting of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind of Torquay and Totnes, an interesting report of the year's work of this society was presented by its Hon. Secretary.

The number of blind persons in the district who came under the care of the society during the year was thirty-two, of whom twenty-four have been trained in institutions, including four blinded men from St. Dunstan's Hostel. They live in cottages side by side, and are engaged in mat-making, basket-making, and shoe-making. Others again are employed as typists, newspaper and tea and coffee vendors; and others are poultry-farmers and apple-growers. For nearly a year the society has been without a head, owing to the lamented death of Miss F. C. Karslake, who was its founder and first and only President. In spite of this great loss the members worked as indefatigably as ever; 366 visits were paid during the year, and many lessons given; twenty-four blind persons were supplied with embossed literature. Braille papers and other literature were given free to some of the very poor. During the Christmas season all the sick and poor received presents of money, food, clothing, or medicine. The Committee are always anxious to obtain pensions for their blind members, but these are invariably very difficult to secure.

OOOO

THE work of the Coventry Society for the Blind deserves whole-hearted support, and it is satisfactory to report that the work is still continued with gratifying success, although it was pointed out at the annual meeting that with increased finances a larger sphere of work could be accomplished. In the report which was read at this meeting it was stated that there were forty-eight names upon the register of this society. The blind are regularly visited, and taught or read to according to their requirements, and these visits are much appreciated. The very needy receive monetary assistance. The Committee has decided to register the society in order that it may be included in the contemplated Government scheme for the benefit of the blind poor.

THE NORWICH BLIND ASYLUM.

THE yearly report of the Norwich Blind Asylum is a very gratifying one. The trade returns show a very satisfactory improvement, and sales have reached the record sum of £1,967 14s. 3d., which is an increase of £361 4s. 6d. on the preceding year. It must be remembered, however, that the extremely high prices and the special demand for war goods, of which the institution has supplied a great quantity, account to a great extent for these improved figures. The committee decided last October to pay the blind journeymen Trade Union rate of wages, as paid to sighted people; also to allow them an increase of 50 per cent. over their weekly earnings, as a compensation for blindness. This comes as a great help, and is highly appreciated by all.

The numbers on the books at the close of the year were as follows:—Technical Schools: Males, 16; females, 9. Non-resident pupils, 1; non-resident journeymen, 9; total 51.

LADY ANTIQUARY'S FIND.

COVERDALE'S PATENT OF 1551 TO SEE
OF EXETER.

HIDDEN for hundreds of years, a valuable Church document was recently discovered at Crediton, Devon, by Miss Cresswell, a lady antiquary, and Prebendary Smith Dorrien, the vicar.

A fine specimen of Tudor script, the document is the original Letters Patent appointing Miles Coverdale, the translator of the Bible into English, to the Bishopric of Exeter. It is dated 1551, and was granted by the boy King, Edward VI. during his brief reign.

Coverdale was promoted to the See, it is stated in the script, "on account of his extraordinary knowledge of divinity and his unblemished character." At this time he was so poor that he was unable to pay the "first fruits," due to the Crown, and the King, on the recommendation of Archbishop Cranmer, remitted them.

The document has been presented to the Dean of Exeter for the collection of muniments relating to Exeter Cathedral.

Welfare of the Blind Local Advisory Committee.

GREAT satisfaction is felt by the blind citizens of Manchester, Salford and district, upon the appointment by the President of the Local Government Board—acting on the recommendation of the Central Advisory Committee—of Mr. Bernard Levy to serve as a member of the Local Advisory Committee for the Northern Counties on the Welfare of the Blind.

Mr. Levy has been a prominent and active worker in connection with the National League of the Blind in the district, and as one of the blind representatives on the Local Advisory Committee, with his personal knowledge and wide experience of general problems connected with the blind, should prove him to be a valuable acquisition.

For a number of years Mr. Levy has been employed as a Trade Instructor in the Technical School at Henshaws' Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, where he received his early education and subsequent training as a pupil of the institution, and he is to be heartily congratulated by his many friends upon the honour conferred upon him.

OOOO

MOULDY COPPERS.

THERE seems to be no doubt that the phrase "mouldy coppers," which London gamins have abbreviated to "mouldies," had its origin in the days when coppers were really coppers and not bronze coins as they are to-day.

Before the early 'sixties, when the old copper coinage was called in, these heavy coins were not popular, and people had a habit of putting them anywhere but in their pocket. A little neglect soon discoloured them and they collected a kind of verdegriis, which drew down upon them the epithet of "mouldy."

OOOO

AT a meeting of the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind on March 3rd, Mr. Frederick Priestman presented a monetary gift to George Liversedge, a partially blind operative of the institution, in recognition of an improvement he had effected to a frame used in the manufacture of skeps by the blind. The improvement is highly appreciated by the blind workers.

ELECTION SLOGANS.

EVERY General Election produces its special cry. The word that has dominated the last one is Reconstruction.

The slogan of 1830 has ever since been famous. It was: "The Bill, the whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill." And it is only surpassed, perhaps, by one back in the 'eighties: "Three acres and a cow," which was designed to get the new agricultural labourers' vote.

"The Big Loaf," with which the Free Traders made such a stir in 1906, was but a revival of the same cry in the 'forties and 'fifties of last century, and is as old as Free Trade itself; but "Dumping" was brand new in 1903, and has been a slogan ever since. "Votes for Women" has been a strong slogan at three General Elections, but to-day it is an accomplished fact, and has done its "bit" as an election cry.

In 1895 the Radicals went to the polls with three slogans: "One Man One Vote," "An Eight Hours' Day," and "Local Veto." The two elections of 1910 produced the most prolific crop of slogans on record, including; "Tariff Reform and Work for All," "Free Trade and Free Food," "Down with the House of Lords," and "Votes for Women."

OOOO

THERE is in Vancouver a small provincial school for blind children. Here the little students, seven in number, appear to be as happy as the day is long, under the superintendence of Mrs. Thomas Burke, who has herself been blind for many years—a most capable, great-hearted woman, whose highest wish is to train her charges to be as independent and self-supporting as she has become. The little people are taught music, folk-dancing (one of their greatest delights), knitting, weaving, modelling, nature study, paper work, household duties, and care of their persons, in addition to the regular school curriculum, which is given in an interesting story form whenever possible. A visitor to the school asked the children if they could tell whether it were day or night. Some could do so, and others could not; others again could "nearly tell." "I can tell if it's getting dark," said one child, "by the feeling of it. I seem to get lonesome even if the room is full of people."

"IT'S AN ILL RAIN—"

THE cotton manufacture of Lancashire is the largest industry in the world. There is nothing even in the great Republic of America to compare with it. It employs more hands and produces more wealth than any other. If the cotton industry were suddenly to cease Britain would lose a business which produces £120,000,000 worth of material every year, which she sends to every country in the world.

Literally a whole county, Lancashire, and parts of Cheshire and Derbyshire, are occupied in this vast business, yet we grow not a pound of raw cotton in these islands. It is all imported. The great cotton port is Liverpool, and Manchester is the centre of the trade.

It is sometimes a source of wonder that Lancashire should have developed this vast business alone. But this is not a mere chance. Even the presence of a great coalfield does not account for it. The fact is that the humid atmosphere of the county is its greatest asset, for if the rainfall of Lancashire were suddenly to be reduced to that of Lincolnshire, say, three-fourths of the spinners would be out of work, and that would mean that the weavers would have no yarn to weave.

OOOO

ALTHOUGH the condensing steam engine has to some extent been superseded, the debt which the world owes to James Watt will not be forgotten when in August next, the centenary of his death occurs. Without being conscious of it, most business men are still using one of Watt's minor inventions. That is the screw press for copying letters. Modern methods may soon make it obsolete in up-to-date offices, but it has had a long run, for Watt patented it in 1780.

OOOO

EVEN musically, the war will long leave its mark in far corners of the Empire. An enthusiastic Welsh corporal, finding himself in company with a squad of Burmese, in garrison, took the trouble to learn some of their strange melodies and set them to orthodox music. Then he prevailed upon the Burmese to form a choir, taught them to sing parts, and recently held a kind of Eisteddfod, at which they sang his versions of their native songs, both in the vernacular and in English with a strong Welsh accent!

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—NO. 29.

MAY, 1919.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.



IN the March number of *The Beacon* we published an article, by Mr. Ben Purse, on "The Status of Trade Instructors." The subject is one which is capable of opening up a wide field of discussion, especially in these times, when an all-round re-adjustment of Labour conditions is taking place, and the following letter, written by an instructor of basket-making, should prove interesting, and at the same time helpful, as it is written in the light of personal experience:—

School for the Blind,
Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Ben Purse's article in *The Beacon* for March should be welcomed by all Trade Instructors, and I feel that a frank discussion of the subject would be of immense value to our work.

Most heartily do I agree with him that some authority should provide the opportunity for us to prove our efficiency as teachers and craftsmen; with such an authority could be vested the inspection of our technical classes by practical inspectors; any system of inspection by people who are not thoroughly experienced in the trade taught in such classes is quite valueless.

The possibilities of the blind as craftsmen are almost limitless, but their opportunities of becoming really skilled are most certainly very limited; the instructor has served his six or seven years' apprenticeship, yet his pupil (notwithstanding his handicap) is expected to learn his trade in about half that time.

In many institutions the business element is allowed to trespass far too freely upon the courses of instruction, with the result that the teacher is often busy turning out mats, brushes, or boots, when his attention should be devoted to turning out makers of these articles. No matter how efficient the instructor, or how gifted his pupils, unless they can come together with perfect confidence in each other, with their undivided attention bent upon the subject taught for the whole time of class, the best results can never follow.

I believe that in the new age the blind worker will come into his own; our present pupils have to be fitted for it by the present type of instructor; is it too much to ask that institutions give him the opportunity to do the work for which they engaged him. Much more could be written about length of training, number in classes, hours, wages, etc., but I hope readier pens than mine will do this. In conclusion, let us, as instructors, have a greater faith in the capabilities of the blind, and then the really good blind workman will become the rule.

Thanking Mr. Purse for his very fine article,

Yours faithfully,

G. SYMES.

We entirely concur with the views expressed in the foregoing letter. We would, however, make one observation, and that is, that although it is quite true, as Mr. Symes suggests, that persons who are subsequently employed as instructors usually serve a period of apprenticeship extending over five to seven years, the object of their serving such apprenticeship is *not* that they

may become instructors, but rather that they may become efficient workmen, competent to execute any commodity required in the trade. It is only by specializing that the best results can ever be obtained, and in the case of the blind worker our chief endeavour is to specialize. As things stand at present, a man who is employed, say in skip-making in Lancashire, would not be expected to be as efficient a workman as if he were producing a class of goods required in London. This state of things ought not to exist, and what we wish to see realized is that the class of goods which the man who is working in Lancashire is capable of turning out, may be recognized *everywhere* as being of first-rate quality. Our aim is to secure absolute efficiency, and at the same time to increase the output of the blind, and it is by specializing alone that both results can be obtained. When this method is universally adopted, we are convinced that, as Mr. Symes says, "the really good blind workman will become the rule."

OPTIMISM OF THE BLIND.

MR. H. C. PREECE, who, though blind himself, has done much to help others similarly affected, addressed a crowded audience assembled at the Central Hall, Westminster, on April 21st, for a concert given in aid of the St. Dunstan's Day Fund for the after-care of blinded soldiers and sailors. After referring to the flag day to be celebrated in the City, the West End, and Greater London on May 20th, in connection with which, he said, there was great need for workers, he emphasised the value of the services rendered to the movement by Sir Arthur Pearson, whose work had produced the extraordinary effect of making blind men realise that their blindness was not an affliction, and that, though it might prove a handicap and a barrier, they had the opportunity of developing talents which could be utilised for service in the cause of suffering humanity; that they were no longer to be shut down as derelicts. St. Dunstan's was known as the London School of Optimism for the Blind. Already 750 men had been placed in positions where they were self-supporting, and there was an equal number yet to be trained in the same way.

THE BLIND RELIEF AND VISITING SOCIETY.

WE have before us the Report for 1918 of the Blind Relief and Visiting Society for Brighton, Hove and District. During the year this Society became a branch of the National Institute for the Blind. The Report states:—

"We are under a debt of obligation to the National Institute for the Blind for the great service they have rendered to us—not only for granting financial aid, but also for the office which they have provided and equipped in a central position in the town, thus enabling us to extend the work for the welfare of the blind. The affairs of the Blind Relief Society are managed by a local Committee, which meets once a month to consider the best method and means of helping those who require assistance, every case for help being thoroughly investigated beforehand.

"At the present time we need visitors to the homes of the blind, who would read and converse with them, and take them out for walks, and in various other ways keep them close to life and all its interests. As a committee it is our earnest desire that the employment may be extended, so that as many of the blind as are able to work may not only earn something for their own support, but that by this means their own lives may be brightened. Materials are supplied to all who can work, and we pay them accordingly for their labour at the current rates, while for our blind travellers we make all arrangements for the supply of goods to them from firms in London and elsewhere.

"Competent teachers are selected from among the blind to give instruction in reading according to the Moon and Braille systems."

OOOO

WE regret to say that in the report of the Bradford Institution for the Blind, given in last month's *Beacon*, we stated that the sum of £28,047 had been paid in wages and allowances during the year. What we should have said is, that the total sales amounted to £28,047, and that the amount of wages and allowances paid to blind persons employed by the Institution was £6,960.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.



WE have before us the fourth annual report of the American National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, which contains much interesting matter. During the year 1918 the Committee devoted its chief energies to the welfare of the child. As the Secretary of the Committee, Mrs. Winifred Hathaway, very justly observes :

"It is not sufficient to save merely the life of the child ; he must go forth unhandicapped by physical defect to his education and to his work." With this aim in view, classes for the conservation of vision have been established in the public schools. Massachusetts had the first organized class, and in that State ten such classes are now being conducted by methods peculiarly adapted to the children of defective vision, who would otherwise be a neglected group in the school system. They do not properly look to a school for the blind for their training. Special methods and appliances are needed for them, but not those adapted to the education of the blind. These classes are aptly called "Sight-saving Classes," never "Classes for Children of Defective Sight." The popularity of the classes is increased, and the willingness of the parents to have their children attend them is secured, by laying emphasis upon the conservation element in their purpose. Cities in Ohio and New York have provided for these classes. The shortage of physicians and nurses has made it more than ever important that parents should understand the precautions necessary to insure clear vision for their children. Towards this end the Committee caused a set of five posters to be printed which presented the subject of the care of the eyes of the new-born child in graphic word and picture story. The figures were drawn from real life in strong charcoal effect, so that parents who could not read might learn the tale from the pictures. For

women's organizations a special publication, "A Talk to Mothers," was prepared, the purpose of which was to arouse women of education to the need of imparting to the ignorant mother a knowledge of the care of herself and her baby.

The method of appealing to the children directly to care for their eyes was also resorted to. Story talks were arranged for in some of the schools, and slides and moving picture films were shown in illustration of the lectures. During 1918, 148 lectures were given to audiences aggregating 42,914 people. Of these 125 lectures were given to school children. One of the most urgent duties confronting the Committee is a more widespread campaign for establishing classes for conservation of vision. Thus far only the edge of this vital subject has been reached. Medical school inspection should include the examination by an eye specialist of each child on entering school.

During 1918, Georgia, Louisiana, and Virginia passed laws for the prevention of blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum. Kentucky passed two important measures : the first, a law for the prevention of blindness from wood alcohol poisoning ; the second, a law providing State aid for city and county nurses. It was found that many cases of blindness and deterioration of sight, especially in the mountain region of Kentucky, were due to the fact that the families were so far removed from medical help that assistance could not be procured in time to be of value. It is believed that the passing of the law allowing certain amounts for county and city nurses will greatly assist in reducing needless blindness. The Committee reports that the fourth year of its activities has been one of strenuous effort and gratifying results. It has been a year of steady progress and achievement. So much, then, having been accomplished, the Committee expects in 1919 to claim for its work attention that they could hardly expect to secure in 1918.

LEICESTER INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

THE 60th annual report of the Leicester Institution for the Blind indicates that, in spite of the difficulties attributable to war conditions, the year 1918 has probably been the most useful one in the long history of this institution. The increased cost of living has necessitated the giving of a greater amount of relief than in former years, and this has been rendered possible by the aid of public generosity.

The number of blind persons whose names are on the register of the association is 417. Blind workers have been fully employed during the year. The increased demand, together with a scarcity of materials, have rendered it difficult to keep pace with customers' requirements. Industrial training has been provided for sixteen pupils, five having been admitted during the year. Of the old pupils three have become wage earners, now employed at the institution, and two have left to commence business for themselves.

Weekly grants have been given to needy blind persons in the town and country who could not, for various reasons, work at the institution. The number helped in this way in the town has been forty-three, and in the country twenty-two. The grants vary from 2s. 6d. to 7s. per week, careful enquiry having been made as to the circumstances in each case.

In spite of the coal shortage and the consequent rationing scheme, the Committee was able to provide this essential commodity to those who were in need of it. To over 100 people an order for 15 cwt. was sent, a blank space being left for the name of the recipient's coal merchant, and the invoice sent to the institution for payment. Numerous letters of appreciation and thanks show how great a boon this was to many who had feared great hardship owing to the coal scarcity. The continued rise in the cost of commodities necessitated a re-adjustment of wages.

The amounts paid to the workers weekly as extra war-time grants were greatly increased. Actually, over £400 was added to the 1917 expenditure for this purpose, making a total for the year of £1,167.

Instruction in Braille is given at the institution, without charge, to any blind person (and to those who fear failure of sight). If desired, tuition in Braille shorthand and typewriting is also given. The Library is more than ever an essential part of the association's scheme for the well-being of the blind. Not only does it contain about 1,000 volumes in Moon and Braille type, but by arrangement with the National Lending Library it provides a constant change of literature, including the most recent publications transcribed.

The use of the Library is free to all blind readers.

DEAF-BLIND BLESSING SOCIETY.

THE fourth annual report of the above society, for the year ending September 31st, 1918, states that satisfactory progress has been made in the various branches of the work, namely, correspondence, literature, visiting, holidays and home-of-rest fund, and employment.

Four members have been assisted to holidays again during the year, in spite of the increasing difficulties brought about by the war. The receipts for the home-of-rest fund show a decided improvement, one of the workers having collected and sent in £15 for that fund. Attention is drawn to the urgent need for a special Home-of-rest or Holiday Home for the deaf-blind. Members have been sent for holidays to homes for the blind, but whereas blind people enjoy to the full such recreations as music, singing, and readings, the deaf-blind are cut off entirely from all those entertainments, while nothing specially adapted for their amusement is provided in their stead.

Much satisfaction is expressed with the continued patronage bestowed upon members in knitting, crochet, basket-making, brush-making, and other occupations.

Orders for work will be gladly received by the Secretary, Deaf-Blind Blessing Society, 39, Boughton Street, Worcester.

oooo

MR. F. MARSH, who has been the blind organist of Holy Trinity Church, Bristol, for fifty years, has resigned.

MOVING PICTURES AND THE EYES.



THE effect of moving pictures on the eyesight is a subject which has recently been dealt with in the *British Medical Journal*, by Dr. N. Bishop Harman, who writes:—"In general, the effect to the eyes of children is the same as that experienced by adults. The unpleasant effects associated with the many pictures, so far as they affect the eyes, are due to the

following conditions: (1) Glare; (2) flicker; (3) rapidity of motion; (4) concentration of attention; (5) duration of exhibition." Regarding the glare, Dr. Bishop Harman says, that though the human eye has a wonderful power of adapting itself to varying conditions of illumination, it is well nigh incapable of adapting itself to a single light in a dark place. The light may be feeble, but if the space in which it is exhibited be dark, it will be relatively intense, and therefore irritating to the eyes. The flicker is peculiarly irritating and is of two kinds: First, there is the effect of the rapid change of the moving film, which is appreciated more by sensitive people whose "reaction time" is high than by those whose senses are duller. The effect is irritating according to the slowness of the flicker—the more rapid the change of the film, the less is the effect upon the eye. If the film can move at a rate slightly greater than that at which the keen eye is able to perceive variations of light, this sort of flicker will cease to worry. Undue rapidity of motion is another cause of fatigue. With the intent to reduce flicker, films are moved through the machine at a rate greater than the natural rate of progress of events depicted. The eye has a habit of work, just as any other part of the body or the whole organism, and there is a resentment, expressed in terms of fatigue, when it is required to work at a rate different from the habitual one. The concentration of effort constituting an hour's work is considered an

additional reason for fatigue, especially as there is no adjuvant sound or other points to divide the attention, the eye being compelled to be fully alert and constantly varying its condition according to the changes in illumination of the screen. Finally, Dr. Bishop Harman considers the duration of these shows sufficient to induce nerve exhaustion.

He admits that it is difficult to state whether permanent defects arises from attendance at these shows, but he thinks a recent observation has some bearing on the case:—The examination of the case papers of a large number of school children who have been referred to eye clinics on account of failure to pass the standard vision tests at the schools, shows that there is an increasing number of children, who, on examination at the clinic, are found to have nothing the matter with them. This is probably caused by a condition of fatigue, so that at the time of the test the children were incapable of putting out sufficient energy, either ocular or mental, to read the standard types. Many of the children are in the habit of going to moving picture shows.

The following recommendations for better protection of children's eyesight are made: (1) The reasonable illumination of all parts of the hall not directly behind the screen. (2) The improvement of the movement of the film so as to reduce flicker, and the withdrawal of films as soon as they are damaged. (3) The rate of motion of the objects depicted to be more natural. (4) Increase of the number of intervals, and interposition of exhibitions other than that of the optical lantern. (5) The limitation of shows for children to one hour, and the prohibition of "repeats." (6) Seats for children should be reserved for them in the best position in the hall. With such provisions the indulgence in a show, once a week, should do no harm to the eyes of a normal child.

MILTON ON HIS BLINDNESS.



THE perusal of a passage in Milton's "Second Defence of the People of England," bearing on the poet's attitude towards his blindness, has greatly interested us. At the time when his eyesight was rapidly waning, Milton was Secretary for Foreign Tongues to the Council of State of the Commonwealth. When King Charles I. was beheaded, Milton attached himself openly to the new Republic by the publication of a pamphlet, in which he held that "it is lawful, and hath been held so in all ages, for any who have the power, to call to account a Tyrant or wicked King, and after due conviction to depose and put him to death if the ordinary Magistrate have neglected or denied to do it." In the end of 1649 there appeared abroad, under the title of "*Defensio regia pro Carolo I.*," a Latin vindication of the memory of Charles, with an attack on the English Commonwealth. As it had been written at the instance of the exiled royal family, by Salmasius, or Claude de Saumaise, of Leiden, then celebrated over Europe as the greatest scholar of his age, it was regarded as a serious blow to the infant Commonwealth. Milton threw his whole strength into a reply through the year 1650. In 1652 another pamphlet was published abroad by a French Presbyterian minister. Salmasius was now dead, and the Commonwealth was too stable to suffer from such attacks, but no Royalist pamphlet had appeared so able or so venomous as this in continuation of the Salmasian controversy. All the more because it was in the main a libel on Milton himself, did a reply from his pen seem necessary. It appeared in May, 1654, with the title "Second Defence of John Milton, Englishman, for the People of England."

Milton wrote this vindication in the sure knowledge that the result would be the speedy loss of his remaining eye. Actuated by a stern sense of duty, by a deep feeling of patriotism, he worked on, "not," he says, "prompted to such exertions by the influence of ambition, by the lust of lucre or of praise. . . . I would not have listened to

the voice even of Æsculapius himself from the shrine of Epidauris, in preference to the suggestions of the heavenly monitor within my breast; my resolution was unshaken, though the alternative was either the loss of my sight, or the desertion of my duty. . . . I considered that many had purchased a less good by a greater evil, the meed of glory by the loss of life; but that I might procure great good by little suffering; that though I am blind, I might still discharge the most honourable duties. . . . I resolved to make the short interval of sight, which was left me to enjoy, as beneficial as possible to the public interest." . . .

How pathetic, but at the same time how inspiring, is the picture that rises before us of the blind poet bending low over the parchment, anxious to answer his persecutor before the last ray of light shall have left him for ever, and how steadfast is the faith that finds expression in the words: "In the most momentous periods, I have had full experience of the Divine favour and protection; and in the solace and the strength which have been infused into me from above, I have been enabled to do the will of God; that I may oftener think on what He has bestowed, than on what He has withheld.

"I would, sir," he goes on to say, "prefer my blindness to yours; yours is a cloud spread over the mind, which darkens both the light of reason and of conscience; mine keeps from my view only the coloured surfaces of things, while it leaves me at liberty to contemplate the beauty and stability of virtue and of truth. How many things are there besides which I would not willingly see; how many which I must see against my will; and how few which I feel any anxiety to see! There is, as the apostle has remarked, a way to strength through weakness. Let me then be the most feeble creature alive, as long as that feebleness serves to invigorate the energies of my rational and immortal spirit; as long as in that obscurity, in which I am enveloped, the light of the Divine presence more clearly shines, then, in proportion as I am weak, I shall be invincibly strong; and

in proportion as I am blind, I shall more clearly see."

And so Milton continued working for the cause which he had espoused, through the dark days of the Restoration, when he so narrowly escaped the scaffold. Blind, he yet kept the inward torch alight, his unconquerable soul rising supreme above the "darkness, the dangers and the solitude" of his later years.

BLIND SOCIAL AID SOCIETY AND LITERARY UNION.

THE annual meeting of the Blind Aid Society and Literary Union took place on March 5th, at 12, Buckingham Street, Strand.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Alfred Carr), in presenting the annual report, stated that the Society had accomplished ten years of useful activity. Last year they had lost the co-operation and help of two friends (Lord Courtney, their President, and Miss E. W. Austin), who had always taken a most cordial interest in the work of the society. Fifteen meetings were held during the year, and several interesting lectures were given. A protest had been put forward against the curtailment of privileges granted to blind travellers, and an assurance was obtained from the London County Council Tramways Committee that no change of policy was intended.

OOOO

IF you tell a man often enough that he is afflicted he will become afflicted.—Sir Arthur Pearson.

THE BLIND OF OLDHAM.

THE annual meeting of subscribers and friends of the Workshops for the Blind and the Society for the Home Teaching of the Blind was held in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, Oldham, on Thursday, March 27th. The Mayor (Alderman Berry) presided.

The thirty-fifth annual report of the Committee announced another year's successful business operations in the Workshops, showing a balance on the right side of £484 10s. 1d. During the year twenty-three blind and partially-sighted persons had been employed as journeymen or learners. From the trustees of the William Bodden Memorial Fund they had received and distributed to the needy blind £39 5s. 6d.

The thirtieth annual report of the Home Teaching Society stated that the total number of blind persons in Oldham was 109 men and 89 women at the last revision. Seventeen names had been added to the list during the year. Fifty-nine were regularly employed at their own workshops, the blind women's industries or elsewhere, and seventeen were partially employed as newsagents, domestic workers, etc. In addition, there were thirty-one children, nineteen of whom attended the Gower Street



THE BLIND CARPENTER.

School, and 101 adults were now visited at their homes.

OOOO

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON has appointed Mr. J. Bulman Smith, M.A., master, Sunderland School for Blind, as northern interviewing representative of the National Institute.

OXFORD SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND.



THE annual meeting of the above society was held on Wednesday, February 19th, at the Principal's Lodgings, Brasenose College. The Rev. Dr. Sherwood was in the chair, and the speakers were Mr. G. Mowatt (member of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind), and Miss J. A. Merivale. The annual report states that there are sixty men and boys and fifty-six women and girls on the County Register. Two boys are at the Birmingham School and two at the Worcester College for the Higher Education of the Blind. There is also one little girl at Birmingham. One man from a country village has been continuously employed as a basket-maker in Oxford for seven months, and another is still at the Nottingham Institution as a brush-maker. Three blinded soldiers from St. Dunstan's are now established at Carterton.

There are thirty-seven men and boys and thirty-eight women and girls on the City Register. One boy who was reported to the Society during the summer has been sent to the College at Worcester, and there are two boys and a girl still at Birmingham. There are several blinded soldiers belonging to the city now passing through St. Dunstan's, and one man from Oxford has finished his training there and gone to Wiltshire as a poultry-farmer.

It is noted that chair-caning is still one of the largest industries, a variety having been introduced during the year in the shape of boat backs. Boot repairing has considerably developed both in quality and quantity. One blinded soldier from St. Dunstan's is engaged as a carpenter, and sells tea-trays and knife-trays at the shop.

The Oxford hand-loom weavers, who employ three blind girls, report that their move into Beaumont Street has been fully justified by the increase of sales. Through the great

kindness of one or two friendly manufacturers they have been supplied with enough wool and cotton to keep their girls employed.

The balance-sheet showed expenditure amounting to £206 8s. 3d., and receipts amounting to £233 17s. 5d., leaving a balance of £27 9s. 2d. The shop accounts show a balance of £28.

The Chairman, in introducing the speaker, paid a tribute to the splendid work he had done for the Blind Society in the past.

Mr. Mowatt said that the outlying principle in working for the blind was to teach them to help themselves. For the blind man or woman without interest or the capacity to follow some pursuit there could be no happiness either for themselves or those around them, because from his own experience he felt that the blind owed everything to the sighted, and should consider the kindness and courtesy they received from their sighted friends and value it accordingly. He congratulated them on what had been done in Oxfordshire. They had shown great sympathy and interest, and for years past they must have done much to alleviate the sufferings of the blind. He had not the slightest hesitation in saying that 1920 would be an entirely fresh year for the blind. The speaker went on to refer to the industries for the blind, and said there was no need for a properly trained man or woman to take an insufficient wage because of their handicap. Although there would be no question of competition between the sighted and the blind person, yet the competent blind were quite worth what they earn. In referring to the importance of higher education, he said that the blind had not risen to the heights they might, because people had not realised their capability. Education taught men and women to prepare their brain so that it might be of use to themselves and others; it taught them to be pleasing in appearance and manners, and how to get more pleasure out of life.

SCHEME FOR DESTITUTE BLIND.

A FURTHER meeting was held at the Town Hall, Sheffield, on March 21st, to consider the scheme to erect a hostel for the destitute blind of the city. As reported in our issue of *The Beacon* for March, a conference of public bodies of the city considered the matter, and recommended that before deciding upon a scheme for Sheffield alone, consideration should be given to the suggestion that the hostel should provide for a much larger area, thus affording greater opportunities for classification, and probable reduced cost per inmate.

The adjourned meeting was held for the purpose of hearing the views of the district bodies, and representatives from Penistone, Rotherham, Doncaster, Chesterfield, and Barnsley were present, in addition to members of the local institutions interested in the movement. The Lord Mayor (Alderman W. Irons) presided. It was soon discovered that the district representatives had but little knowledge of the project, and had received no powers from their relative bodies, and, in view of this, the meeting was adjourned for one month.

The Town Clerk, in explaining the proposed scheme, said the object of the meeting was to decide whether the district bodies were willing to co-operate with Sheffield in the scheme. They sincerely hoped that something would come of it on the lines of the report. If the outside bodies decided not to co-operate, Sheffield was still prepared to carry on with the scheme. If co-operation was decided upon, various questions of apportioning the cost would have to be decided.

Members from Doncaster, Barnsley, Chesterfield, and Penistone expressed themselves in sympathy with the scheme, but stated they were unable to commit themselves to its acceptance.

Councillor G. E. Stembridge proposed that the meeting should express the opinion that a combined effort to solve the problem of the destitute blind was desirable, and also the hope that the scheme would be put forward with the fuller consideration of the various bodies represented, and that the meeting be adjourned for one month for that object; this was carried.

OBITUARY.

THOMAS PERKIN ROBINSON.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. Thomas Perkin Robinson, J.P., which occurred at his residence, Cleevethorpe, Sandal, on Saturday, April 5th, in his 72nd year. Mr. Robinson was the editor and manager of the *Wakefield Express*, which had been founded by his father in 1852. He also had an interest in various other newspapers. He was a member of the Council of the Newspaper Society, and a Fellow of the Institute of Journalists. Mr. Robinson was a member of the Committee of the Wakefield Workshops for the Blind ever since their opening in 1901, and for fourteen years, by means of an annual appeal in the *Wakefield Express*, he raised money to send the blind people in the workshops and others to the Southport Home of Rest for the Blind. He attended the Committee meetings with great regularity, and his wise counsels there were much appreciated and will be sorely missed.

THE RIDDLE.

WHAT am I? *And why?*
And my purpose here?
Who can here reply?
In some other sphere?

Where that other sphere?
What there the reply?
Tell me, pray you, *here*—
What I am, and why?

Just a mould of clay—
Heated by Love's flame?
Just a golden ray—
Fading whence it came?

Just a fight for bread?
And a search for light?
Then *for ever* dead?
Then *for ever* night?

ANSWER.

"*Work*, and ask not why
Thou art here, O Man!
Thou shalt find reply—
In the Perfect Plan."

W. F. K. Rean.

LAFCADIO HEARN : An Appreciation.



PERHAPS the most remarkable feature in the life of Lafcadio Hearn, to whom we are indebted for so many fascinating works on Japan and the Far East, is the extraordinary care he took with his productions — writing, re-writing, and polishing almost every sentence, and this despite the fact that he was totally blind in one eye, and in constant dread of losing the sight of the other. As all his manuscripts were in fine, neat handwriting, this critical care must have necessarily entailed a great strain on his limited vision.

In her "Life and Letters of Lafcadio Hearn," Elisabeth Bisland graphically describes the cause and consequences of his partial blindness.

"He was for a time at Ushaw, the Roman Catholic College at Durham, and here occurred one of the greatest misfortunes of his life. In playing the game known as 'The Giant's Stride,' he was accidentally blinded in one eye by the knotted end of a rope, suddenly released from the hand of one of his companions. In consequence of this, the work thrown upon the other eye by the enormous labours of his later years, kept him in constant terror of complete loss of sight. In writing and reading he used a glass so large and heavy as to oblige him to have it mounted in a handle and to hold it to his eye like a lorgnette, and for distant observation he carried a small folding telescope."

Born in 1850, he spent the first few years of his life in his birthplace, the Island of Santa Maura, one of the Ionian Isles then among the British possessions.

His father, a handsome, reckless Irishman, had married, in romantic circumstances, a beautiful Greek girl, said to be of good family, and for the first seven years of his life Lafcadio was very happy. His best and tenderest thoughts and memories seem to

centre round this idolised mother of his. In his "Dream of a Summer Day," he says, "I remember, too, that the days were ever so much longer than these days—and every day there were new pleasures and new wonders for me. And all that country and time were softly ruled by One who thought only of ways to make me happy. . . . When day was done, and there fell a great hush of light before moonrise, she would tell me stories that made me tingle from head to foot with pleasure. I have never heard any other stories half so beautiful. And when the pleasure became too great, she would sing a weird little song which always brought sleep."

Again, in a letter to his brother, he wrote :

"And do you not remember that dark and beautiful face . . . that used to bend above your cradle? Whatever there is of good in me . . . came from Her. It is the mother who makes us—makes at least all that makes the nobler man; not his strength or powers of calculation, but his heart and power to love. And I would rather have her portrait than a fortune."

But, alas! for the child Lafcadio, the ill-assorted marriage of his parents ended unhappily, and a dark, dark day came for him when his adored mother returned to Greece, and in so doing passed out of his life for ever.

The marriage had been annulled, and upon his father marrying again, young Lafcadio was handed over to the care of a great-aunt in Wales. Here he passed a desolate childhood—a sensitive, highly-strung little lad, among uncongenial, orthodox surroundings. The aunt with whom he lived was rich, and up to his sixteenth year his education appears to have been in no way neglected. After the accident which led to the fatal injury to his eye, a gradual estrangement seems to have arisen between Lafcadio and the old lady. She was a strong Roman Catholic convert, and the boy's pagan

fancies slowly widened the breach till a final separation occurred.

Then ensued for Lafcadio three years of direst struggle and poverty. At one time he was even reduced to taking refuge in a London Workhouse, but the indomitable spirit of the boy survived throughout, and finally he managed to make his way to America. In the "Life and Letters" we find this passage:

"Some time during the year 1869—the exact date cannot be ascertained—Lafcadio Hearn, nineteen years old, penniless, delicate,

half-blind, and without a friend, found himself in the streets of New York."

After many struggles and privations, he became a journalist in a small way, and passed several years in that capacity on various newspapers in Cincinnati, going in 1877 to New Orleans, where he continued his journalistic career—studying hard out of office hours—for twelve years.

It was during this time that his first book, "One of Cleopatra's Nights," was published. In 1890, an arrangement was made by which he went to Japan for the purpose of writing articles from there, and on May 8th of that year he left for the East, never to return.

Owing to a rupture with the firm, the articles were never written, and instead he secured an appointment in a Japanese school.

Soon after he wrote his first Japanese book, "Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan."

In January, 1891, he married a Japanese lady of high rank, with whom he lived most happily. There were four children of the marriage.

While resident in Kōbe, he wrote "Kokoro" and "Gleanings in Buddha-Fields."

To the very last, when his magnificent work had made him world-famous, he would re-write at exhaustive effort the most trifling sentence again and again, till for him it had attained perfection.

After he had written "Japan: an attempt at interpretation," his eyesight began to fail. A serious illness followed, which left him very weak, but still he continued his herculean labours till an evening in September, 1904, when, while walking on the verandah of his home, he slipped quietly to the ground, to rise no more. He was buried, by his own request, in "the old cemetery behind my garden," and he leaves behind him work that is as beautiful as it is unique.

ALICE M. RAIKER.

OOOO

To aid St. Dunstan's Fund for the permanent care of men blinded in the war, President Wilson has placed his autograph on an English pound note, for which offers will be received at 306, Regent Street.



THE BLIND MAT-MAKER.

BATTLE TROPHIES.

THE War Museum, under the chairmanship of Sir Alfred Mond, M.P., looks as though it was going to develop into a very elaborate collection, but there are many who, having lived so close to war during the last few years, will prefer Madame Tussaud's, being quite content to leave the battle trophies to their curious and peaceable descendants.

Among the relics which at present figure in the War Museum are the log-book belonging to Krupp's yacht, containing the ex-Kaiser's autograph; the locker from H.M.S. Good Hope; a German dispensary waggon dated 1863, but not captured until 1917 on the Somme; and over 10,000 autographs of distinguished men. Visitors may also see a complete collection of the old recruiting posters—how differently they will view them now that their interest is merely historical!

—portraits of V.C.'s and innumerable other relics of the war. The secretary is Major Charles Ffoulkes, and any suggestion may be sent to him at the Imperial War Museum, Great George Street, London, S.W.1.



A GAME OF DOMINOES.

RE-EDUCATION OF THE MAIMED.

ONE of the most cheering of war books is "Physical and Occupational Re-education of the Maimed," translated from the French of M. Jean Camus and others, by Surgeon W. F. Castle, R.N. (Ballière, Tindall & Cox, 5s. net). Sixty per cent. of the maimed in the French Army are farmers and others who worked on the land, and the French authorities have done wonders in helping these men, many of whom are blind, to return to their work. French methods are worth studying for the reason, among others, that French doctors, having to deal with men who are by nature impulsive, have discovered the value of teaching their patients to have faith in themselves. Sir Arthur Pearson has made the same discovery at St. Dunstan's. In this book English doctors and patients will find much to encourage them from this point of view. It is well illustrated, showing men working on the land with the help of artificial limbs, and the adaptation of agricultural implements to assist them.

There is a useful chapter on agricultural re-education, mental as well as physical, and accounts of other classes of work in training schools set up by the French Government.

Articles on British institutions of the same type are contributed by Sir Arthur Pearson, Mrs. Margaret Sales and Mr. Dudley B. Myers.

OOOO

THE BARCLAY WORKSHOP.

WE would like to call our readers' attention to the fact that the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women is now at its new address: 21, Crawford Street, London, W.1.

We have already had pleasure on more than one occasion in drawing attention to the excellent work that has been carried on at the Barclay Workshops, both at Brighton and in London. It is interesting to learn that last year over £2,000 worth of goods were sold when the Workshop was in the Edgware Road, where there was no show-room as at the new building. With increased facilities, doubtless the custom will still further improve.



AIR TRANSPORT.

MR. F. HANDLEY-PAGE, the famous aeroplane-designer, has contributed an interesting article to a recent issue of the *Fortnightly Review*. He says :—

“From the earth’s earliest dawn to the present day transport has been one of the world’s greatest problems. Man at first had to rely on his own physical powers until he found that animals could be made to carry loads far heavier than he could handle, at speeds far greater than those that he could reach. In the end his mechanical ingenuity has improved on natural methods and in their turn he has developed the train, the steamship, and the aeroplane.

“There are two basic causes which might tend to retard the progress of aviation in the future: (1) The instinct of self-preservation, and (2) the obstruction of vested interests. The first is the most powerful; the general public are not ready to risk their lives in any new venture for the advancement of some new art but dimly understood. This bar to progress has vanished in the experience of the last four years. The thousands of miles which have been flown without accident, the cross-country flights such as those made in time of war from England to Constantinople and Cairo with a considerable load of baggage and equipment, have proved conclusively that this, the quickest means of transit around the world, can be used without danger to the passenger. As regards the second point, the advent of any new means of transport must appear to threaten existing interests. But the carrying capacity of the aeroplane is small, and the loads of which it would relieve the train or steamship are negligible compared with those the latter carry. It can, therefore, be readily seen that those causes which in the past have retarded progress, have been entirely absent in the development of the aeroplane, and that the last four years have seen more thought and labour devoted to aviation than

would have been its natural portion in as many generations of peace.

“The aeroplane will not compete with the telegraph system, cable, or wireless, but will be a useful adjunct conveying written signed statements, important documents, long reports, and descriptive letters in the time of a week-end cable and at a fraction of the cost. It will enable the business man to visit his overseas agencies and friends, to discuss matters with them on the spot and examine the requirements of their districts, at the cost of a few *days* instead of months of travel. The aeroplane will bring to the London markets samples of our Colonies’ crops within a few days of plucking. The enterprising planter will perhaps even bring his own samples to Europe and sell his crops personally on the great exchanges of the world. It will be one of the greatest adjuncts of the newspapers and topical cinematograph. It will distribute photographs of important events world wide within a week of occurrence.

“As the time goes on and flying is more and more developed distances will be virtually reduced to such an extent that at the end of the present century, without a doubt, Australia will be brought as close as America is to-day, and America will be no farther from us than London is from Aberdeen. The world at large will gain. Gone will be all the charm of exploration, but instead it will be possible for each to travel and see for himself those sights and countries which up to the advent of air travel it has only been possible for the few to enjoy.”

○○○○

A MEETING on “Esperanto for the Blind” will be held at the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, S.W.1. (Westminster and St. James’s Park stations), on Tuesday, May 20th, at seven o’clock. It is hoped that blind Esperantists will make a point of attending, and all others are cordially invited.

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE.



IN the Armitage Hall, on Tuesday, March 25th, the sixth of this season's Monthly Concerts took place, when the programme was given by the students of the Royal Normal College.

Enthusiasm was the dominant note of the evening, for not only was it evident from the numerous encores that the music provided was thoroughly appreciated by the audience, but it was equally clear that the contributors to the programme entered fully into the joy of giving pleasure to others. In the first movement of Grieg's Piano Sonata, Miss Beatrice Hargreaves appeared to advantage, her expressive and delicate rendering of the second subject lingering pleasantly in the memory; Mr. Sidney Jones' technique and grip of virile expression manifested themselves in Chopin's "Polonaise" and in "Ragamuffin," by John Ireland (a piece which certainly improves on acquaintance); while Mr. Arthur Jackson, A.R.C.O., very appropriately opened the programme with a piece by a blind composer, Mr. Watling's effective and original "Marche Héroïque." Mr. Greenhalgh gave a very good account of Easthope Martin's "Crown of the Year," evoking a well-deserved encore; and Miss Sutterby and Miss May Gooding were happily associated in the duet "I Know a

Bank," both vocalists doing full justice to their respective parts. Miss Sutterby also gave a delightfully fresh rendering of Sanderson's "Spring's Awakening." This singer has a very pleasing voice and an expressive and inspired way of using it, and all those who heard her will look forward to hearing her again. The Choral numbers were all happily chosen, a vocal version of Strauss' "Blue Danube Waltz," sung by the full choir, and "Peter Piper" (by Frank Bridge), for female voices, being perhaps

the most attractive items. The whole programme not only came up to our expectations, but in several respects it surpassed them. We have no hesitation in saying, therefore, that the College is not only maintaining old traditions, which were always good, but the musical education is quite obviously advancing, an advance which is no doubt largely due to the stimulus of up-to-date aural training methods, though there are other contributory causes such as the increased attention given to the

bringing out of the capacity of each individual. In conclusion, we fully shared the enthusiasm of the audience and we look forward with very pleasant anticipations to another Concert at the Institute given by the students of the Royal Normal College.



THE BLIND BOOT-REPAIRER.

EAST YORKSHIRE CONFERENCE.

A CONFERENCE of friends of the blind, held under the auspices of the Northern Counties Association for the Blind, was held last month at the Hull Guildhall, for the purpose of electing a District Committee for the East Yorkshire area, where there is a blind population of 352. The Sheriff of Hull presided, and the Hon. Secretary of the Hull Blind Institution referred to the legislation recently passed in the interests of the blind. Amongst those appointed were:—Mr. G. W. Sutherby, manager of the Hull Blind Institution; Mr. W. G. Burstall, Mr. J. R. Lawson, a teacher of the blind; Mr. Godfrey Robinson, a blinded officer; Mr. Ernest Riley, a blind worker; Mr. Hopper, a blind soldier, and others. The first duty will be the preparation of a complete register. Mr. Burstall pointed out that it was essential for the purpose of the Government enquiry that every blind person should be registered. The Government definition for blindness is "too blind to perform work for which eyesight is essential."

OOOO

A BELL only 5in. high and 2½in. in diameter at the base, recently sold at Christie's for 1,250 guineas. It is of bronze gilt, with human heads engraved on two side panels. For centuries it has been a relic venerated by the peasantry of West Ireland. According to tradition it descended from Heaven ringing loudly to St. Finan, patron of the seven churches of Scattery, a holy island near the mouth of the Shannon. Throughout Galway it was believed that anyone who told a lie after being sworn on the golden bell would have his mouth twisted, and down to the middle of the 19th century it was successfully used for the discovery of information when all other means failed.

OOOO

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

GRADE ONE-AND-A-HALF.

THE second edition of 5,000 copies of Revised Braille for Reading and Writing, Grade one-and-a-half—Literary, Mathematical, and Chemical Notations—based upon Revised Braille for Reading and Writing, Grade II. (including Grade I.), and Mathematical and Chemical Notation, by H. M. Taylor, M.A., F.R.S., has been published. The issue of this edition is authorized by the American Commission on Uniform Type for the Blind, representing jointly the American Association of Instructors of the Blind and the American Association of Workers for the Blind, and is procurable from the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Ky., and from Perkins Institution for the Blind, Watertown, Mass.; price, post paid, 4c. each, 30c. per dozen.

OOOO

BRAILLE.

FOR the first time in the history of the University of Calcutta, a blind boy has this year appeared at the matriculation examination. The candidate, one Nogendra Nath Sen Gupta, who is a student of the Calcutta Blind School, had his matriculation questions printed for him in Braille and a secretary to write to his dictation. He worked out sums on his special calculating slate and dictated the whole process, drew diagrams on his special geometrical board, and worked out questions in "graphs."

OOOO

TRAINING OF THE BLIND.

AT its annual meeting, at Nottingham, on March 14th, the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind was declared by Lord Algernon Percy to have done more than any other institution for the deaf and blind. The report stated that the number of blind persons connected with the institution was 116, and the amount of the Government grant for technical training was £533, a much larger sum than hitherto. Sales for the year totalled £14,056, an increase of £2,710. The old pupils' scheme continued to be of much service, and forty-six pupils had received grants aggregating £188.

CARE OF THE BLIND.

FOR the purpose of carrying out the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, a Local Advisory Committee of thirty members has been appointed for the North of England to advise the Central Advisory Committee in London as to local needs and requirements. District Committees are also to be appointed. For the purpose of electing such a committee for the Central Lancashire area a meeting of friends of the blind was held at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, last month.

Mr. W. H. Illingworth (superintendent at Henshaw's Blind Asylum) explained the relationship of the committees to the Central Advisory Committee. The committees would be sub-committees of the Central Advisory Committee. That committee had no executive function; it was purely advisory to the Local Government Board. Every recommendation made by a District Committee to the Central Committee would be carefully and sympathetically considered. The Central Committee had presented to the Local Government Board a comprehensive scheme setting out the provision which they considered necessary in respect of the education, training, employment, and maintenance of the blind. Treasury sanction to the expenditure of the necessary monies had been sought, and the matter was now under the joint consideration of the Board and the Treasury. A register of the individual blind was nearing completion. The spending departments of the Government had agreed, on receipt of the necessary information as to requirements, to place as much work as possible in the hands of workshops for the blind, and the Local Government Board was to guarantee the quality of the goods produced at any workshop. It was good to think that the number of cases of birth-blindness was on the decline.

Miss Margaret Ashton said there had been opened out a new era in the care of the blind. The nation had now the power of doing collectively what so far had been done, as well as possible, by philanthropic institutions with a certain amount of State aid. The nation had been awakened to what could be done for the blind through the efforts of Sir Arthur Pearson.

MARVELLOUS BIBLES.

THE largest Bible in existence is in the Royal Library at Stockholm. The covers are made of solid planks, four inches thick, and the pages each measure a yard in length. It is estimated that a hundred asses' skins must have been used to furnish the 309 parchment leaves of this colossal book. It is considered priceless.

A well-to-do New Yorker is the proud possessor of a manuscript Bible written by his only son, a cripple. He could only work about two hours a day, so he took over two years to complete his task. It does not contain a single error or slip, for if error or slip occurred the youth discarded the whole page. The verses and headings are all in red ink, and the whole is beautifully written.

In a house in Grafton Street, London, there is a shorthand Bible which was written at least two centuries before Pitman was born. It was written by an apprentice in the days of James II., when to possess a "common or garden Bible" was rather dangerous.

A lady in America cherishes a Bible probably as old as the one written in shorthand, which an ancestress baked in a loaf of bread when a house-to-house search was going to be made for stray copies of the Scriptures. The soldiers came to search the house, but it is not a matter of wonder that they failed to find the book, which now, looking pretty old, is the American lady's chief treasure.

OOOO

GENERAL DECLINES STAGE OFFER.

GENERAL PERSHING was rather astonished and not altogether pleased, says the *British Weekly*, to receive a five-figure offer from a New York music-hall manager for a series of short war lectures.

The General did not reply, and a fortnight later received the inquiry, "Have you entertained my proposal?"

He then replied, "No, but your proposal has entertained me."

OOOO

THE subscription rate for *The Beacon* for Great Britain and the Colonies is 3s. per annum, post free; for foreign countries, 4s. 2d. Single copies can be bought for 3d., or 4d. post free.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—No. 30.

JUNE, 1919.

PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.



IN the *News and Observer* for April 20th, 1919 (an American paper published at Raleigh, N. Carolina), there is an article of intense interest to all of us who are working towards the same end, namely, the substitution of the word "handicap" for "affliction" when dealing with the blind. The article deals with the first letter

ever written by one blind soldier without hands to another similarly crippled, the letter in question being a message of good cheer, written by Sergt. Alan H. Nichols, of London, to an American soldier in a New York hospital. A copy of the letter, and of another dictated by the sightless and handless British soldier, have been received by the Associated Press from Sir Arthur Pearson, the President of the National Institute for the Blind.

One letter was written by Nichols with artificial hands, on a specially constructed typewriter keyboard. Its purpose was to encourage all war cripples, and to show them that, no matter how terribly handicapped they might be, they could rise above their deprivations and conquer the Giant Despair. This blind but cheerful Tommy Atkins informed his correspondent that he was still able to dance, swim, ride horseback, play dominoes (with his nose), feed himself, carry a cane, take his handkerchief from his pocket, and do almost everything a man with two eyes and two hands could do except roll his own cigarettes and strike a match. He uses a taper.

Sir Arthur, in a note accompanying the missive, said he supposed it was the first case on record where a man "suffering the tremendously severe handicap of blindness and the loss of both hands" had been able to write, unaided, to anyone. The original letter was sent by Nichols, from St. Dunstan's, to the wounded American soldier whom Sir Arthur had seen in a New York hospital.

Here is what is believed to be the first letter ever written by a blind man without hands:—

3, New Street,
St. John's Wood, N.W.,
17th March, 1919.

Dear Mr. —

Enclosed you will find rather a lengthy letter which I dictated for you, but I am typing this one myself to convince you that this is practicable. I understand from Sir Arthur Pearson that you are free from other physical disabilities, and in this respect you are more fortunate than I. In September, 1916, I received my little souvenir, and I still have quite a number of little pieces of shrapnel in my chest and legs, which cause me no little annoyance at times. In September, 1917, an operation was necessary to remove some of the shrapnel from my chest, and three weeks later another operation resulted in the removal of portions of ribs and still more pieces of foreign matter. At Brighton, where I was sent to one of St. Dunstan's annexes, I soon found myself getting fit, and it was during my convalescence that Sir Arthur arranged for me to take lessons in elocution, which enables me to earn my own livelihood.

My work is most interesting, and consists of speaking on the work of St. Dunstan's

and the National Institute for the Blind. It will surprise you, I know, when I tell you that in addition to this I control and organize the lantern-slide department, which is the advertising medium of the N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's.

In conclusion, permit me to express the hope that you have not given up the idea of ever doing anything, when I feel sure there is so much for you to do.

Yours sincerely,

ALAN H. NICHOLS.

In his dictated letter Nichols says :—

"When you are fit and well and able to run about you will find there is still plenty in life worth living for. When I first became like this I could not see anything that was likely to interest me on this earth. I was inclined to think I was the most unfortunate person on earth. In short, I was often contemplating a method of quitting this life. At that time I never dreamed of the possibilities of a pair of artificial hands, and I can assure you that I now surprise everybody, but the one I surprise most is myself. I can take off my hat, carry a walking-stick and attaché-case, and feed myself with a spoon and fork. I have a specially made cigarette-case, similar in appearance to a metal match-box, which fits in my waistcoat pocket. . . ."

Nichols says that he uses an ordinary typewriter, with a metal case over the keyboard, having holes immediately above each key. The case resembles four steps, and in the middle of each step is a rib "to let me know when I am central. Attached to my hand I have a key or striker, which resembles a small hammer. It takes me about half-an-hour for one sheet of foolscap, double spacing, but, of course, this will improve by practice."

Telling of his amusing experiences whilst travelling, Nichols writes: "I take considerable satisfaction in the fact that I am able to deceive 99 per cent. of the people I meet. I am wearing a pair of artificial hands, which are quite useful. They are made of aluminium, and I can wear them all day without the least fatigue or discomfort. They are of French manufacture, and so made that however tender the stumps may be, they do not interfere with the wearer's comfort. The movement of the hands is obtained by a shoulder movement. The hands in appearance are perfectly natural;

in fact, the public would not think there was anything the matter with me. I once addressed a meeting without any of the audience knowing I was wearing artificial hands."

We have quoted all this in full not from any desire for a journalistic "scoop," but as an extraordinary instance of how a man may rise superior to his environment. The person who is in full possession of his sight naturally finds it impossible to place himself in the position of one who cannot see. You may set any test you like to yourself—you may close your eyes for as long a period as you desire—but there is always the knowledge that by merely opening your eyelids the world's picture-book is open to you again.

It is by such instances as that of Sergt. Nichols and others that we begin to realise the amazing potentialities that lie dormant in the human mind; the loss of one sense will, to a great extent, be compensated for by the awakening of another, and it seems to us that that is something that we who can see must always remember. If we do so in the right spirit it will alter our whole conception of what blindness means. We shall begin to realise that loss of visual sight does not mean loss of mental sight; on the contrary, it may mean the awakening of an intelligence that owes its existence to the fact of physical blindness, and by this comprehension it is given to us to realise the full meaning of the words sympathy and co-operation.

OOOO

WE beg to offer our congratulations to Mr. Ben Purse on his election as President of the National League of the Blind. Mr. Purse is a very striking example of a man who, himself handicapped by loss of sight, has risen superior to all buffets of fate, and we feel sure that, as President of the National League of the Blind, he will still further enhance the reputation he has made in so many ways.

OOOO

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

SOME ANIMALS THAT ARE BLIND.



BLIND animals comprise an interesting group in Natural History, of which there are a considerable number, living in caves, or lying concealed during the day under stones, or inhabiting the gloomy abysses of oceans. A striking peculiarity of most of the blind cave animals is that though no faintest ray marks the difference between day and darkness in the depths in which they live, those whose ancestors were nocturnal in their habits still prefer to move about during those hours when the surface of the earth is in darkness—a striking instance of the power of heredity.

Among the cave animals is a variety known as *Amblyopsis*, which according to an article in the *Scientific American Supplement*, is entirely destitute of external eyes, although its optic lobes are as much developed as in fishes with perfect sight. To compensate the animal for the loss of sight, wise Nature has provided it with a great number of soft nipples, arranged on transverse ridges on the head, and provided with sensitive filaments, by means of which it is enabled to seek its food—the sense of touch thus being substituted for that of sight. This fish was at one time abundant in the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky and in other cave streams in the central part of America, but is now scarce for some unknown reason. Despite their blindness they are said to make their way from one cave to another through the short open streams which sometimes connect them.

Another species of blind cave fish to be found in America is the *Tryphlichthys Subterraneus*, which inhabits the caves of Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee. This fish has a translucent, colourless body. Its mouth is directed upward, and as the head is very flat, the fish receives its food from above, and as a result spends most of its life near the surface.

The species known as *Chologaster* has eyes in a primitive condition of development. In South America is found a small siluroid or catfish, which has very small eyes covered with a transparent skin. This species, which is called *preñadillas* by the natives, achieved fame through the popular belief that it lived in subterranean waters within the bowels of the active volcanoes of the Andes, and was ejected with streams of mud and water during eruptions. The real explanation of its appearance during volcanic eruptions is that it abounds in the lakes and torrents of the Andes, is killed or stupefied by the gases escaping during eruption, and is swept down to the valleys below by the currents of water issuing from the volcanoes.

Two species of blind catfish are found in the cave streams of Pennsylvania, while many members of the same family which live in muddy waters, have very minute eyes. Then there are two kinds of fishes, shaped like eels, with long and slender bodies, which are found in the fresh waters of certain caves in Cuba. These are also totally blind. An inhabitant of the Indian Ocean is an electric ray with sightless eyes. Strange to say, this fish is provided with a row of minute luminous glands which in all probability serve as lures to attract its prey.

Among snakes there are in America four species which are practically blind. They are popularly known as “blind-worms.” They are the lowest as well as the smallest of snakes. An ordinary earthworm appears of gigantic proportions when compared with some of these reptiles. In the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky is found a cavern rat, of a soft bluish colour, with white neck and feet. It has enormous eyes, black as night, but totally unprovided with irises. These eyes are insensible to light, and when the experiment has been made of catching a cavern rat and turning it loose in the bright sunlight, it blunders about, striking itself against everything, is unable to provide

itself with food, and finally falls down and dies. However, in its native depths it is able to lead a comfortable enough existence, as its enormously long whiskers are so sensitive that they enable it to find its way rapidly through the darkness. To make up for its lack of sight, it is provided with antennæ of extraordinary length and delicacy; by means of these it hunts its prey, which consists of other small blind insects, with great rapidity and absolute certainty.

The blind cavern beetle is remorselessly hunted by its equally blind enemies. An expert, who thoroughly explored these caves some years ago, describes it as an extraordinary sight to watch by the light of a candle a scorpion, absolutely eyeless, hunting a beetle, equally blind, along the cavern wall. Although the beetle was several feet in front of the scorpion, and divided from it by a fissure in the rock, the scorpion tracked it with absolute and appalling certainty. The eyeless spider found in these caves is of a lovely ivory white, and is able, like other insects which inhabit the same subterranean depths, to run very rapidly, and find its way with as much certainty as if it were able to see.

Instances of blindness among the Crustacea are occasionally found. The most noted is that of the blind crayfish of the Mammoth and other caves of Kentucky and Indiana. The animal inhabits shallow pools with muddy bottoms. It moves slowly with its feelers spread out before it, and gently moving to and fro, feeling, as it were, every inch of its way. A curious instance of blindness is to be found in the *Ethusa Granulata*, one of the stalk-eyed Crustacea. In shallow water it is found with well-developed eyes. In water of 110 to 370 fathoms deep, it is to be found with stalks, although in this case the animal is absolutely sightless, the eyes being replaced by rounded terminations to the stalks. In water of from 500 to 700 fathoms the animal is found provided with stalks which have absolutely lost their special character; they have become fixed, and their ends combine into a pointed beak.

In the examples of blind animals which we have quoted above, it will be found that Nature has in each case provided some efficient substitute for eyesight, so that these animals are enabled to move about with ease and rapidity, and to wage successful war against their enemies.

"VICTORY OVER BLINDNESS."

"VICTORY OVER BLINDNESS" is one of those rare books, a book that reviews itself—by this we mean it is a story of brave deeds, and at the same time a review of that very story, and therefore it disarms criticism by the keen criticism it invites so eagerly.

There must be few people in the kingdom who do not in a general way know the story of St. Dunstan's. If there are any who do not know that story we can only suggest they take the first opportunity of procuring a copy of "Victory over Blindness," and see how from small beginnings the hostel has become a huge colony and Workshop of Light.

The Blind World owes much to Sir Arthur Pearson. We are not sure that, psychologically speaking, it does not owe him most for two simple little phrases, the one, "Learning to be blind," the other, "Blindness is a handicap, not an affliction." Sir Arthur Pearson, himself handicapped, has done more to arouse a really intelligent understanding of the word "blind" than perhaps any man in the world. Away with the old idea that the blind man is just a useless piece of flotsam on the sea of life—an object of pity, and, we would almost say, half contemptuous commiseration. There is for the blind man a kingdom awaiting him, a kingdom, the watchword of which is the quotation that Sir Arthur himself has placed on the cover of his book: "Nothing is here for tears."

To all our readers then we give this advice: Read the book for yourselves. And we would like to supplement the little quotation we have already given by these lines, written by James Montgomery, the Scottish poet:—

"Go, build his monument—and let it be
Firm as the land, but open as the sea.
Low in his grave the strong foundations lie,
Yet be the dome expansive as the sky,
On crystal pillars resting from above,
Its sole supporters—works of faith and love."

* By Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E.; published by Hodder and Stoughton, London, Toronto, and New York. (Price, 7s. net.)

BROKEN IN THE WAR.

MESSAGE OF HOPE FROM HELEN KELLER.

BY EDWARD MARSHALL.

NEW YORK.



O hear her urging love and gratitude in the abstract—for we have been thinking about hate and loss, in abstract and concrete so long—came as a surprise, in the midst of days like these. “The trouble with the world,” she said to me, “is that it does not love enough, is that it uses force when gentleness would win and force must lose, is that we do not thank enough for the blessings which the good God gives to our unworthiness. We all lack so in gratitude! I know I do.”

Is it not a certainty that anyone who from her inmost heart can speak thus must have been given by fortune far more than her rightful share of the good things of this human life? It is not—but let us realise the facts.

The sweet-faced young woman who declared the world's fault and her own to be that neither it nor she gives thanks enough for mercies granted (and meant it with a splendid earnestness) was Helen Keller, “blind,” “deaf,” and “dumb,” the most famous sufferer from these dreadful disabilities known to human history, and famous purely through the victories which she has won over them and in spite of them.

“Out of the sorrow of the world's vast war must come great happiness,” she said. “If Nature sends us a cold winter, she sends us soon a warm summer. A year is never wholly winter. All sorrows, I believe, inevitably have their compensating joys. The proof that God is good lies in the fact that while humanity always is granted recompense for sorrow in great joy, it is not true that all and always we must pay for joy with sorrow. Joy is the greater part of human life. That I have learned.”

“Always we can work,” she went on thoughtfully, with that marvellously sweet smile which continually lights her pleasing and extraordinarily expressive face. “The ability to work is man's best heritage. Work is the great well-spring of happiness. And all can work.

“What is a handicap? It is hard for me to understand the expressions of despair with which some folk refer, for instance, to the soldiers returning from this war whose fortune it has been to suffer, and who through their suffering are ‘handicapped.’ Sympathy is splendid and desirable; despair is sin. A handicap is a new urge to work. Heed it and find greater happiness than the unhandicapped can know, for he whose work succeeds, no matter how primary it may be, wins happiness therefrom, and he whose handicap is great must make his work succeed. Making it succeed he continually will win worthy victories. The successful doing, by one handicapped, of tasks, which might be easy for the normal, may make the handicapped one's life a real triumphal progress. Sometimes I wonder if we ‘handicapped’ are not the lucky ones! We know so many victories!

“What is a handicap? It is a spur. No; you say my handicaps, for instance, must be limitations? Very well—must I lie down and weep because I find myself with limitations? The world is full of folk with limitations. No one is without them.

“Thousands of the gallant fighting men of Britain and of France and some of those of the United States have sustained that trial of blindness which is regarded as the one supreme misfortune. But wait! No misfortune is supreme. Only good fortune can be that.” (Remember that she who spoke these words is Helen Keller; remember the great cross she bears!)

“There are fates worse than blindness.

“Blindness? I am what the world calls ‘blind,’ but I deny that I am blind, and I declare that there need be no such thing as blindness!

“The most brilliant vision is the vision of the spirit, and no mishap of war or peace can take that from us if we, ourselves, refuse to let it go.

“We blind are not unhappy. I know not one unhappy blind man or blind woman. Was there ever anyone so cheery as Sir Arthur Pearson? While he had his sight he accepted his achievements more or less

as the divine right of his ability and energy. But now that he is blinded his achievements become very real to him and to many thousands, who, in his seeing days, never heard of him at all, and, therefore, now, achievements must mean the greater happiness to him, for they give him that elation which comes to one who helps a multitude.

"Happiness cannot come from without. It must come from within. It is not that which we see, or touch, or feel, or that which others do for us, which makes us happy; it is that which we think and feel and do, first, as Henry Ford says, 'for the other fellow,' and then for our own selves.

"I know that inability to see, inability to hear, inability of normal speech, cannot shut happiness away from one who loves and is loved, from one who works and, like all workers, inevitably gains the pay for labour, from one who wishes all men well, and tries, however humbly, to be helpful, believing that, fundamentally, all men are good.

"Life need not be dull for people who are blind. Adventure awaits everywhere. It is astonishing to find how many great adventures we may find in friendship, and friendships often follow on the wreck of what has seemed to us to be all that there was of life, blessing us who know them, filling our existence with rare blossoms which we did not know were in the world's bouquet of flowers.

"My heart especially goes out, of course, to those blinded in the war; but that which I must feel for them is more like camaraderie than sympathy. The blinded man has not been wounded hopelessly. Only those whose spirits have been mutilated unto death have been wounded hopelessly in this or any other war.

"So I, who proudly may lay claim to having borne some suffering, wish to send a message—very loving, superlatively sympathetic—to the women—to the women who have lost loved ones.

"Theirs is the greatest loss of all, for it means something torn out of their hearts; theirs is the greatest suffering of all, for it is agony of the soul. To even think of them makes my poor speech even more difficult than usually it is. It is hard to find the words with which to form a message to them. Even to attempt to do so seems almost impertinent. Grief is a thing so sacred that one hesitates to touch it even with the utmost gentleness.

"But, if I may beg the privilege, there is one thing that I shall tell them, and it is that they must not let their loss decrease their love. With every throb of love which stirs our hearts we grow stronger, better, happier. Let their love for those whom they have lost not sink into mere grief, but remain fine and fervent, radiating out towards others! It will then return into their hearts as the moisture which is given by the springs to the warm sun returns to them in gentle dew and balmy showers, filling them anew with sweetness.

"I have the feeling in my heart that, out of the great turmoil of this war will rise some very human and some very splendid things for society in general. It may be that the mighty struggle has brought us nearer—very near, indeed—to the dawn of a new day, the dawn of that great day which shall give freedom to mankind, the dawn of the bright day of universal brotherhood, the dawn of the supremely wondrous day of service from all to all.

"And I am sure that fine signs are everywhere. The impulse towards real brotherhood is in the air. In all countries of the world to-day is thought and talk of brotherhood. We must do away with all those prejudices which divide men from their fellow-men. Only when we have done that will the 'world war' have been won in living fact."

[Copyrighted 1919, by Edward Marshall Syndicate Inc.]

OOOO

THE care of the blind is a subject which is occupying much more attention than it used to do. Few towns have given it so much consideration as Bradford, and it was therefore fitting that the conference held under the auspices of the Northern Counties Association for the Blind should take place in this city. The Bradford Royal Institution proudly claims that it looks after the sightless from the cradle to the grave, and the city was well entitled to the honour of being chosen as the centre for No. 8 area, the district which it comprises in the Northern Counties Division. The experience which Bradford has gained should be of great assistance to other towns in the group.

OOOO

"CAN I 'ave the arternoon off to see a bloke abaht a job fer my missis?" "You'll be back in the morning, I suppose?" "Yus—if she don't get it." *Punch.*

CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.



HERE was given an interesting resumé of the activities of the Canadian Institute for the Blind at a general meeting which took place on February 7th of this year. This Institute was incorporated in March, 1918. During the first three months of its existence, propaganda and research work were carried on by the General Secretary, and elementary vocational work begun for a handful of soldiers at the premises of the Canadian National Library for the Blind. In July more active work was begun, and during the next few weeks several hundred names were registered and indexed, the beginnings of an executive staff secured, and suitable office quarters engaged.

In October the Industrial Department for Men was opened. Here the trade of broom-making is taught under the immediate charge of a totally blind supervisor of large experience and known ability. The results have been eminently satisfactory. An Industrial Department for Women was opened in December. This Department is under the charge of a sighted woman who has had previous experience in industrial work for the blind. There are twenty-one blind women here, who are at present carrying on the industries of reed-basket making, machine-sewing, machine-knitting and loom-weaving.

Pearson Hall, a residential club for blinded soldiers, was formally opened on January 7th of this year by Sir Arthur Pearson. Here any blinded Canadian soldiers, up to the limit of the capacity of the hall, which has twenty-seven beds, may be received in residence, and may receive light vocational training, including instruction in Braille and typewriting, reed-basketry, and hammock-netting, etc. Dr. C. R. Dickson, Chairman of the Blinded Soldiers' Committee of the

Institute, is personally in residence at the Hall, where everything which can contribute to the comfort and welfare of the men has been provided.

In December the final ratification of the terms of amalgamation between the Canadian National Library for the Blind and the Institute took place, whereby the Library virtually becomes the Library Department of the Institute. The report of the Library for last year shows that over 10,000 embossed books and pieces of music were circulated among the blind during that period.

In addition to these more visible lines of activity, the Institute includes upon its staff four Home Teachers—one for Toronto, one for Hamilton, one for Winnipeg, and one for Vancouver. It is the duty of these teachers to call upon such of the blind in their homes as desire this service, to teach them to read and write Braille, and instruct them in light vocational lines, such as knitting, crocheting, and domestic duties for the women, and caning, hammock-making, etc., for the men. The Institute also numbers among its workers a field worker, who does investigating and follow-up work and performs the general duties of a social worker.

The Institute employs a Prevention of Blindness nurse, whose duties include consideration of the formation of defective eyesight classes in public schools, installation of safety devices in factories where processes dangerous to eyesight are carried on; better lighting and sanitary conditions where eye-strain endangers sight, etc.

An After-Care Department is about to be opened under the charge of an able manager.

In conclusion, for practically twelve months of organic existence and nine months of active construction work, the Institute feels that it has accomplished a record of which it need not be ashamed before any court of critics in the world.

TWO EXAMPLES OF VICTORY OVER BLINDNESS.



TH first sight there may seem to be nothing extraordinary about the two photographs reproduced on this and the opposite page, representing as they do an irreproachable example of a wicker-basket and a crocheted cloth. Notwithstanding, they are both of them striking examples of how the human mind can rise superior to what unintelligent people might consider to be an insuperable handicap. The basket was made entirely by a soldier who was blinded in the war, and in addition to this, lost his left arm. He entered the workshops of St. Dunstan's on the 7th of April, this year, and the closest scrutiny of this specimen of handicraft fails to give any clue as to the double handicap imposed upon the maker. Indeed it seems almost incredible that in a few weeks a blind, one-armed man could be capable of turning out so fine a piece of work. Both as a testimony to the teaching staff of St. Dunstan's and the efforts of the basket-maker himself, the photograph surely speaks for itself. The cloth is a specimen of the ingenuity of a blind home-worker. The maker, who

lives in Cambridge, is totally blind and is specially gifted in the execution of the most beautiful crochet work, articles such as that illustrated being frequently submitted for sale to the After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind. The cloth illustrated is entirely the work of the blind needlewoman, including the needle-work and cutting-out, both of which were accomplished without any sighted supervision. On several occasions special and first prizes have been won by this gifted lady in competition with blind and sighted exhibitors. There must

doubtless be many more examples of things useful, rare and beautiful, made by the blind all over the country. We should be glad to hear of any exceptional examples such as we show here and we feel sure that notices of such could not fail to be of interest to all readers of *The Beacon* and all those who are working towards the common cause of making the blind self-reliant and self-supporting.

OOOO

CONCRETE
ships, says a

Government official, can be made in moulds. But, of course, you must not forget to grease the tin.
Punch.



BASKET MADE ENTIRELY BY ONE-ARMED BLINDED SOLDIER.

CLIFTON HOME FOR BLIND WOMEN.

AT the annual meeting of the above Home, Professor Sibree presided. The Hon. Secretary (Miss J. Barette) reported that in order to save expense the Committee had decided only to publish a balance-sheet this year, but she thought those present would like to hear what had been done in connection with the Home during the past twelve months. She, therefore, read a list of the chief events. A remarkable and encouraging feature of the year's work had been the number of new friends who had willingly come forward to help the Home get clear of debt. There had been entertainments, the usual autumn sale, and pound day.

In addition, musical evenings and talks have been given in the Home by Miss Merle, Miss Hawkings, Miss Starling, and Miss Workman, and the members of the Home had been entertained in various ways by their numerous friends. Mrs. Sibree, in moving the re-election of the Committee, said how deeply they all regretted that Miss K. Clarke, owing to continued ill-health, had been obliged to tender her resignation. Miss Clarke had been a most constant and appreciated visitor at the Home, and, with her sister, had read the whole of Dickens to the members.

With regard to the financial statement, the Hon. Treasurer stated that it showed a deficit on the year's takings of £59, but this was partly compensated for by a small legacy from the estate of the late Miss Lily Greenland.

OOOO

'BUS CONDUCTOR : " Anybody want the Albert 'All?"

WEARY HOUSEHUNTER (absent-mindedly): "It's rather large, but perhaps I might be allowed to sub-let a part." *Punch.*

OOOO

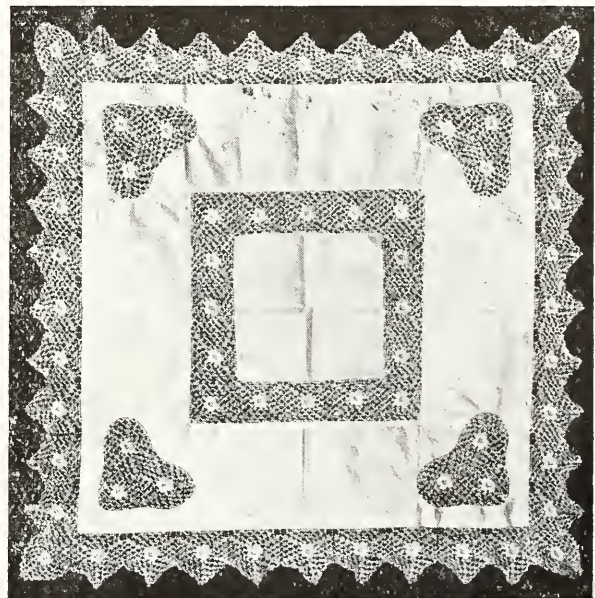
THE scarcity of jam was being discussed by two mothers on an East End door-step.

"What's the good of four ounces of jam a week to my biby?" said one of them. "Why, I used to wash about an ounce off his face after tea every day!"

THE BRISTOL BLIND.

THE annual meeting of the Royal School of Industry for the Blind, Bristol (Westbury-on-Trym), was held recently. The yearly report which was presented on that occasion, stated that the work had been in every way satisfactory. The numbers in the technical department had been well maintained, and the demand for fully trained and efficient apprentices had been greater than for many years. Considerable progress had been made in the music and pianoforte-tuning departments. A blind piano-tuner had been engaged to give instruction, and the school now undertook the tuning and repairing of pianos in the neighbourhood. The sales of work had been much larger than in any previous year, and the demand was still maintained. The trading account showed a much better result than previously. Recently the Committee made considerable advances in payments to blind workers, and had decided to place them on a fixed wage scale. The Blind Workers' Help Fund had been very useful in assisting the most needy during the long continuing period of high cost of living. The Hostel for Blind Women had proved of great benefit to the women workers.

OOOO



CROCHET CLOTH, MADE ENTIRELY BY A BLIND NEEDLEWOMAN.

A NEW HOME FOR WOMEN WORKERS.

FOR many years Bradford has taken a leading part in work done for the welfare of the blind, and it is no exaggeration to say that the progressive policy of the Committee of the Royal Institution for the Blind in this city has done much to create a wider outlook amongst all workers for the blind in every part of the country.

Already the well-known Institute at the top of Darley Street has extensive branch premises in Piccadilly, and whilst excellent provision is made for blind men at the Frederick Priestman Home at Frizinghall, many women similarly afflicted are accommodated at 10, Spring Bank, Manningham Lane. Now a further development in the good work which the Bradford Committee has undertaken has been rendered possible by the generosity of Mr. J. K. Waddilove, the donor of many other handsome gifts to Bradford in the cause of philanthropy. Mr. Waddilove is presenting his late residence, "Oakhurst," in Oak Avenue, Manningham, and it is proposed that this shall be used in future as a home for the blind women workers who are now resident at the Institute itself.

This beautiful home and grounds will provide excellent accommodation for some thirty or forty women. The rooms, which are large and airy, are well adapted for the needs of the blind, and in the extensive gardens there are numerous seats where the women will be able to sit in the shade on spring and summer days and enjoy the songs of birds and the scent of flowers, which the blind appreciate perhaps more than any other members of the community.

The premises in Darley Street are essentially business premises, and the change to a brighter and more commodious home will be an indescribable boon.

All friends of the blind will share with the Committee of the Royal Institution their great appreciation of this gift, and will welcome the opportunity which it will afford of brightening the lives of these women. The cost of upkeep, it need hardly be added, will be greater than it is at present, when the women reside in the Institution, but the gain will be so great that the

Committee have full confidence that the public will see that their various activities do not suffer in any way on this account.

The National Institute for the Blind has sent £500 towards the equipment of the hostel.

HER RETURN.

14/5/19.

["This I would say, standing as I do in view of God and Eternity : I realise that Patriotism is not enough ; I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."—Edith Cavell's last words before being shot by the Prussian soldiery. England has welcomed, with tears and gratitude, Edith Cavell, one of the great souls that seem to be born to teach her race the highest conception of true patriotism and devotion to others on the sacrificial altar of self.]

AT twilight, as the shadows fall,
There comes a voice, it is of one
Who breathes to me, "The day is done
"And I would sleep whence came The Call."

There's many a flower in England's Isle
By tyrant crushed, has bloomed again :
A ministering angel in our pain,
A soul with its incarnate smile.

*But not in all our Island lore
A lovelier seed of God has bloom'd ;
Or nobler queen Love's crown assum'd,
Or holier saint to pray before.*

Mourn, then, not thou, and doff the cloak
Of Custom, with its usage grim ;
And sing in triumph her loved hymn,
And read a sonnet from Love's Book.

W. F. K. REAN.

OOOO

THE Southampton Association for the Blind, which is affiliated with the Home Teaching Society for the Blind, reports progress in its activities. This Association supplies books in Braille or Moon Type to any blind person residing in Southampton and the neighbouring villages. There are still a number of blind residents who have not taken advantage of the offer to teach them the Braille type, and the Association wishes it to be known that their teacher would visit them in their homes free of all cost. The Association provides all the necessary books and appliances. There are between 150 and 160 blind people in the neighbourhood ; these are all registered.

FLOWER GARDENS FOR THE BLIND.

BY MOLLIE KENNEDY.



WITH faltering steps he came through my garden, for as yet he was unaccustomed to its winding ways, and we kept an anxious eye on his every movement, ready to warn him where steps led down from terrace to terrace. Then suddenly he paused, and sniffed with appreciation. "I say, that's sweet briar. How ripping," he cried. That began it. At first it seemed a kind of game to him, to wander round and distinguish flowers by their scents, but now and again I caught a touch of wistfulness about his mouth, and my heart ached as I saw that boy's sightless eyes.

I could guess what he was thinking, for he had been a garden-lover, a hard worker, too. But the sweet-scented blossoms seemed to bring him solace. That was why I sowed whole strips of night-scented stock, insignificant blossoms as viewed by day, but when night dews descend the terraces were drenched with sweetness.

A long oblong bed of purple stocks made a gorgeous splash of colour for us; the scent was delicious, and my Blind Boy loved it.

Then there was the lavender hedge, with clumps of mauve and pink sweet peas. We chose the old-fashioned Lady Grizel Hamilton; she is so beautiful the newer kinds cannot outvie her, and as I described the colour schemes to him . . . the grey-green lavender with its spikes of bloom, and the sweet peas, pink and mauve and white, he laughed happily.

"Makes me think of Gén  in one of her dances . . . the last time I saw her," he cried, and he started on a happy stream of reminiscences, fingering meanwhile the sweet-scented posy I had picked for him.

A spray of bergamot, pinched between thumb and finger, roused more happy memories, and we had a delightful browse amongst books we loved, for it was bergamot started us to talk of Mrs. Ewing's "Daddy Darwin's Dovecotes" and others, and then we wandered on, talking of old-time tales belonging to childhood's days.

It was he who told me bergamot belonged to the category of plants known as "Sabbath Day Posies," and explained that "Meeting Seed" herbs were fennel, dill and carraway, and that in old-time days every woman took a posy of these to smell or nibble in church to keep her awake during the long-winded sermons beloved by divines of those times.

Lad's love, or southernwood, was another homely plant he found by sense of smell, and fingering its aromatic leaves, told me quaint stories and superstitions concerning it.

White pinks—he loved these better than carnations; indeed, it was extraordinary to notice how my Blind Boy passed by flowers with thick "heady" perfumes, and preferred the old-world blossoms.

But he loved the lilac—"laylock," as Walter Savage Landor wrote it—and there was one never-to-be-forgotten May night when we took him into the garden and the nightingale sang in the little thicket at the bottom. Lilacs and jonquils scented the air, but there were spring-like odours everywhere—and the song of the nightingale set us all a-quiver with a strange joy.

"I've a lot to be thankful for," was his quiet summing-up. "To hear that . . . and to be in this . . ."

"This" meant the sweet-scented garden, and it struck me then how many of us could make gardens for the blind. Not always to visit, that would not be possible, but all those who own gardens could easily pack up hampers of flowers with distinctive perfumes and send them to the sightless ones whose faculties are so keenly developed that a whiff of scent from some old-world flower will at once set their memories harking back.

Not sorrowfully, no; he who has been a garden-lover has a whole chain of happy memories, and can visualise at will the gardens of delight that have been his.

Posies of cowslips, violets, and primroses, followed by honeysuckle and wild roses from the hedgerows, will bring remembrance of countryside rambles, too, but with a garden—well, you have every chance to grow flowers that will make perfumed patches for the blind.

LEGÉ BRAILLE TYPE.



THE Braille magazine *Progress* readers were invited in the May number of that paper to make comments on the Lége type in which the special supplement was printed, and a considerable number of letters were received in response to the invitation. The majority of letters spoke approvingly of the type, while in one or two letters the writers stated that they had read the supplement before the Editorial, and did not notice that the supplement was different to that in which the magazine was ordinarily printed.

It must be remembered that the size and shape of the Braille characters, the space at which they are set apart from one another, and the distances between the lines, are all vital points in the production of Braille books. On the one hand it is essential that the maximum facility for reading should be secured, and on the other that the minimum of space should be occupied.

After considerable experiments the National Institute has now produced a Braille character which meets these conditions, and the Council have recently decided that this character shall be the standard type for their publications. We may expect, therefore, that when the old plate-making machines have been modified, or, as will probably be the case, re-designed and re-built, the Institute's Braille productions, while perfectly legible—indeed, we believe more so than formerly—will be some 15 per cent. less bulky, or, to put the matter in another form, the present size of a book will contain 15 per cent. more matter.

One letter received which seems to us as particularly valuable came from a writer who is working in Henshaw's Blind Asylum at Manchester. This correspondent says:—"The nature of one's occupation obviously has a bearing on the facility with which Braille is read, and I may here say that

those with whom I discussed the Lége type are, in the main, engaged in the basket, brush, or mat-making industries, or as tuners. The general opinion expressed was distinctly favourable to the new character, the reading thereof having presented no undue difficulty, although in some cases, perhaps naturally, there was a diminution in the ease of perusal. The one or two who were the more diffident stated they thought that their trouble with Lége character Braille was but momentary, and would pass with practice."

The National Institute has already published a number of books in small character Braille, but this did not meet with universal approval. The modified character will represent a compromise between ordinary type and small character. Its adoption will mean the saving of about 20 per cent. of the number and bulk of Braille books, with a corresponding diminution of the cost of production.

The following are typical extracts from letters received:—

"I think the supplement in this month's *Progress* is quite legible and agreeable to read. I consider myself a good test, as I can only read with one finger, and my fingers are crippled with rheumatic arthritis."

"I found the supplement just as easy to read as *Progress*. I hope the Lége character will be used freely in the future."

As was fully expected, certain Braillists were of opinion that the alteration of existing Braille characters should not be considered, but the depreciatory letters were very few in number. The undoubted consensus of opinion from those in a position to judge is to the effect that the adoption of the Lége type would be in the nature of a boon. We feel that the columns of *The Beacon* are a fitting place for a further discussion on this subject, and we shall be pleased to hear from any of our readers who have any comments to make on the matter.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

IT has been decided to transfer the monthly pianoforte recitals formerly given by the Music Librarian of the National Library for the Blind, at Westminster, to the Armitage Hall, National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, W.1., in order to increase the attendance and to give opportunities of producing organ music.

These recitals are given with a view to bringing readers up to date with the many additions to the music section of the Library, and it is hoped that full advantage will be taken of the scheme.

The next of the series will take place at the National Institute on Tuesday, 17th June, at 7.30 p.m.

H. V. SPANNER,
Music Librarian.

Members of the National Library for the Blind will be glad to know that a complete revised catalogue of the collection of books and music in the Library has now been published in ink print. The whole collection, including the stock of the Northern Branch Library, comprises 6,600 separate works in 56,000 volumes, supplemented by 4,000 pieces of music in 8,000 volumes—a total of 64,000 items.

Copies can be obtained on application to the Secretary: Literary Section, 1s. 2d., post free; Music Section, 7d., post free.

O. I. PRINCE,
Secretary.

OBITUARY.

CHARLES HARTLEY.

BY the death, on May 20th, of Mr. Charles Hartley, the Manager of the Workshops for the Blind, Cornwallis Street, Liverpool, the Liverpool Workshops and a large number of friends and acquaintances have sustained a very severe loss. Mr. Hartley was well known as a most able manager, and a man who took the keenest interest in everything that spelt reform in the Blind World. He was a member of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, whose meetings he always attended with great regularity; his advice has always been listened to with the greatest respect and interest.

Mr. Hartley had been in failing health for some time, but his devotion to his duties would not allow him to take the rest which was his due. His trade knowledge and experience, coupled with his kindly nature and keen business instincts, made him an

ideal manager. The Cornwallis Street Workshops became, under his guidance, models of what work shops should be, and the gap he will leave behind him will not be readily filled.

OOOO
DURING recitation in a certain primary school the

instructor asked her pupils what wonders can be seen to-day that were not in existence fifty years ago. There were many answers: aeroplanes, the telegraph, the telephone, electric lighting, automobiles, etc. Finally, one little fellow contributed his wonder: "Me and me little brother."



Presented to the National Institute for the Blind by Mr. G. W. Hayes, as a training centre for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, and for Male Civilians who lose their sight in industrial life.

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE.



ON Wednesday, April 23rd, at the seventh of this season's monthly concerts in the Armitage Hall, the following artistes contributed a very interesting programme:—M. Louis Godowsky (violinist), Mr. Percival Garratt (pianist), Mr. H. Etcheverria (vocalist), Mr. H. V. Spanner (accompanist). M. Godowsky delighted the audience not only by the wonderful flexibility and ease of his technique, but particularly by the delicacy in the slow-movement numbers. This last characteristic was conspicuous in the "Larghetto," by Nachez. This young violinist (for there were various conjectures as to his actual age) is making very deserved headway as a solo performer and all who heard him did not need telling that they were listening to an artist with a very great career before him. The concert opened with a very fine rendering of the first movement of Elgar's Violin Concerto, a work which wants hearing many times before it can be fully appreciated, but which will repay any trouble in getting intimate with it. It was not surprising, therefore, that some of the audience found it rather difficult to understand upon first hearing, especially in the absence of the orchestra; orchestral colouring being such a vital feature of Elgar's work.

Mr. Percival Garratt did the piano part full justice and as a soloist his own piece "Diversion," Op. 41, No. 2, enabled him to display the resources of his technique and it also provided an interesting illustration of his capacity to express himself in the modern tonal idiom.

Mr. Etcheverria gave a very spirited and dramatic account of Vaughan Williams' "Songs of Travel," songs which certainly improve on acquaintance, and he responded to a well-merited encore with "Hearken, O England," by Wolstenholme, a song which we hope to see published in the near future.

This notice would not be complete without an appreciative word upon Mr. Spanner's

song accompaniments, which were full of vital musicianship and were an admirable interpretation of the composer's dramatically descriptive conceptions.

RECITAL FOR MUSIC TEACHERS.

IN the hope of increasing his audience which so far has been a small one, Mr. Spanner gave his recital this month at the Institute instead of at the Library. The programmes of these recitals are exclusively taken from music accessible in Braille—either published by the Institute or in MS. at the Library—and they frequently include a number of pieces likely to be useful to the music teacher, whose interests receive primary consideration. The items are not limited to piano solos, but songs, violin pieces and piano duets often find a place on the programme.

The larger audience, numbering nearly fifty, justified the experiment, and the next recital will, therefore, again take place at the Institute, the day fixed being Tuesday, June 17th. Those who attend at one recital are asked to make suggestions as to what should be played at the next, and incidentally also, to say what music they would like to have put into Braille.

The programme on May 15th was exceptionally varied and interesting, the items being as follows:—Estampes, by Debussy; Lyric pieces, Op. 43, Grieg; set of examination pieces; a Chopin selection, including three Mazurkas and the Scherzo in B flat minor; two operatic selections from Verdi and Rossini, sung in Italian by Mr. Etcheverria.

The whole programme, including the songs, was admirably rendered, and with the prospect of such musical treats in view, it is to be hoped that Mr. Spanner's audience will be much larger at his next recital.

H. C. W.

OOOO

BORED CADET (in Westminster Abbey):
"Let's shove off, now, mater. Hate hangin' round a place where one might be buried some day!"
Punch.

NEWS ITEMS.

A DEPUTATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY LABOUR PARTY.

ON Wednesday, May 14th, a deputation from the National League of the Blind waited upon the Parliamentary Labour Party at their room in the House of Commons.

For some time it has been apparent that the members of the League are not at all satisfied with the attitude of the Government towards the blind, and the business of the deputation was to urge upon the Labour Party that they should take definite and drastic action, with a view to bringing problems associated with the care of the blind more forcibly to the notice of Parliament.

The deputation urged that "in consequence of the apathy manifested by the Government towards the problem of providing more adequately for the blind, we respectfully suggest that the Labour Party should call for the adjournment of the House of Commons in order to direct the attention of Parliament to the pressing necessity for immediate legislation, or failing that, to require an undertaking that a reasonable amount of money will be available with which to provide substantial relief."

Further, "That the Labour Party should demand of the Government a specific undertaking that at the earliest opportunity they mean to give effect to the recommendations made by the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, whose report was issued in July, 1917."

Also, "That the Labour Party should immediately press for effective inspection of all workshops and factories in the United Kingdom where blind persons are employed."

The Rt. Hon. W. Adamson (Chairman of the Party) expressed profound sympathy with the object of the deputation, and promised that every attention should be given to the procedure to be adopted by those who acted with him.

It is understood that such course of procedure will be intimated to the officials of the League in due course.

* * *

CARDIFF INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

During last year we find that the Cardiff Institute for the Blind paid in wages the

sum of £1,930, the basis of such payments being the Trade Union rates. During the same period they paid in augmentation of wages and holiday allowances the sum of £1,450. We are further advised that appreciable advances have recently been made, and that the sums given above will be considerably augmented during the current year.

* * *

BRISTOL WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.

We note that in connection with this undertaking an experiment is being made, designed to abolish piece-work rates of payment. The male employees are graded under three scales, payments being made respectively at 30s., 35s., and £2 per week. The women workers are being paid at the rate of 19s., 20s., and 21s. per week. In the case of the men, income and pensions obtained apart from the Institution are not included in the above-named allowances, but in computing the wages of women workers external income is taken into account.

* * *

BARCLAY WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.

We note with pleasure the fact that the Barclay Workshops for the Blind are now paying to their women workers a minimum wage of 16s. 6d. per week, plus an additional allowance of 6s. 6d. per week, or 23s. per week. The authorities are expressing a keen desire to still further improve the wage status, and we wish them every success.

* * *

In connection with the various efforts to augment the wages of the blind, the following facts will prove of interest:—

The Royal Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, average amount of augmentation, 5s. 6d., with a maximum of 9s.; Royal Institution for the Blind, Bradford, 10s. augmentation to male employees and 12s. to female workers; Workshops for the Adult Blind, Newcastle, male adult workers 15s. per week, females 10s. per week; Association for Promoting the General

Welfare of the Blind, Tottenham Court Road, London, W., a flat rate of 12s. per week.

* * *

ROYAL GLASGOW ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

The ninety-second annual report of the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind is just to hand, and contains some most useful and interesting information.

We are told that 341 blind persons received the benefits of the Institution. The nett subscriptions were £3,692 3s. 1d., showing an increase over the previous year of £298 3s. 11d. "The total sum paid directly to blind persons connected with the Institution in salaries, wages, augmentation of wages, war bonuses, and other charitable grants, amounted to £12,919 1s. 1d." The total sales realised £47,073 and the Central Warehouse sales £5,575. Industrial profits are set down at £6,976. Legacies during the year yielded £2,849. Capital account is said to be £34,832 18s. 4d. No valuation is given of the Institution ground, buildings, holiday home, furniture, fittings, machinery, and plant.

OOOO

A BLIND musician, says a writer in the *Scotsman*, on being shown a hedge-sparrow's nest, evinced a particular interest in its exploration by his highly sensitive fingers. To us the blue eggs in their setting are beautiful to look at, yet their charm was apparently not less to him, and his apt definition of the pleasure their touch afforded him included the remark that it recalled the breezes of June on his forehead.

OOOO

BRIDGET MALONE, the new cook and general servant, was never at a loss for an answer. On one occasion she had committed some fault which led her mistress to remonstrate with her.

"If such a thing occurs again, Bridget, I shall have to get another servant."

"That suits me, mum," replied Bridget, unconcernedly, "there's plenty of work here for two of us."

OOOO

THE subscription rate for *The Beacon* for Great Britain and the Colonies is 3s. per annum, post free; for foreign countries, 4s. 2d. Single copies can be bought for 3d., or 4d. post free.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind.

FICTION

Short Tales *The Rev. G. Bampffield*
Grand Babylon Hotel, 4 vols. *Arnold Bennett*
Oddsfish, 6 vols. *R. H. Benson*
Stickit Minister, 3 vols. *S. R. Crockett*
Bearers of the Burden, 3 vols.

Major W. P. Drury

Shuttles of the Loom, 5 vols. *K. M. Edge*
Sunshine Settlers, 3 vols. *C. Garstin*
Mr. Barnes of New York, 5 vols. *A. Gunter*
The Yellow God, 5 vols. *Sir Rider Haggard*
Three Midshipmen, 8 vols. *W. H. G. Kingston*
Felicity in France, 5 vols. *C. E. Maud*
John Verney, 4 vols. *H. A. Vachell*
The Rajah's People, 6 vols. *I. A. R. Wylie*

MISCELLANEOUS

Love's Chaplet (Anon.)

*New "Guide" Arithmetic: Book 1, Scholars;
Book 2, Teachers, 3 vols. (Anon.)

Teachings (Automatic Writing) 2 vols. (Anon.)

*Longman's French Course, 4 vols.

T. S. Bertenshaw

Winged Warfare, 3 vols. *Major Bishop, V.C.*

Men and Women, 2 vols. *R. Browning*

*A Diplomatic Diary, 3 vols. *H. Gibson*

Kokoro (Japanese Inner Life), 4 vols. *L. Hearn*

Catholic Women Workers, 1 vol.

Lady Herbert and Others

Among Famous Books, 4 vols. *J. Kelman*

Browning as a Philosophical and Religious

Teacher, 5 vols. *H. Jones, LL.D.*

*Lands beyond the Channel, 7 vols.

H. J. Mackinder

War the Liberator *E. A. Mackintosh*

In God's Army, 6 vols. *C. C. Martindale, S.J.*

Marshal Foch: His life, his work, his faith,

2 vols. *R. Puaux*

Poems: 1, Made in England; 2, War Time,

1 vol. *O. Seaman*

Apologie for Poetrie, 5 vols. *Sir P. Sidney*

GRADE III.—

Dolly Dialogues, 2 vols. *A. Hope*

MUSIC

PIANO—

Shepherd's Hey (Morris Dance) *P. Grainger* (arr.)

First Piano Lessons: Book 2, The Countryside

W. Carroll

SONGS—

Gates of the West *C. Lowthia*

Red Lips, Farewell *A. de Larn*

Destructive War ("Belshazzar") *Handel*

A Maid Sings Light *MacDowell*

DANCE—

The Veleta *A. Morris*

La Rinka *T. Beale*

Valse Bleue *A. Margis*

ORATORIO CHORUS—

Let Their Celestial Concerts All Unite ("Samson")

Handel

* Stereotyped Books.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—NO. 31.

JULY, 1919.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

EDITORIAL.



THE subject of "Reading Aloud" is one which we think must be of interest to all who work with blind people. To those who are learning Braille, and have not yet completely mastered its intricacies, a welcome change and rest must be afforded by listening to a really good reader. But what exactly is meant by the words "a good reader?" This is what a writer to the *Spectator* has to say on the subject:—

"To be able to read aloud well is a great accomplishment, though one which of later years has been undervalued. In the days when women spent a good deal of time by the fire, and took pleasure in needlework, reading, working and tea filled a pleasant afternoon. Many mothers read systematically every day to their children, and not a few men either listened or read aloud in the evenings when they had nothing better to do. Generally speaking, women read the best, and scores of people remember now with peculiar vividness and pleasure the novels and the poetry which their mothers read to them in their teens. They preserve a delightful recollection of Scott, Thackeray, the Brontës, and Disraeli, even though they may confess that they never now take them down from the shelves.

"The first essential to the art of reading aloud is a pleasant voice. We have, however, known readers who fancied their own reading, and who possessed no other qualification. The effect was monotonous and

even soporific. We should say that the two most difficult things to read really well are the newspaper and the Bible. The easiest thing to read is, of course, fiction. Poetry is difficult. Philosophy and other studious stuff requires little but intelligence and practice. In this case the listener wants nothing but to know what is in the book, and not to be irritated by stumbling or confused by obvious incomprehension. To begin with the newspaper. A really good newspaper-reader must read fast, read clearly, and know how to skip. He must not get angry and ruffled because he does not agree with what is said. The very bits which rouse him may be those which his hearer likes. No intelligent listener, however, likes padding. An eye for padding, for reiteration, for safeguard sentences, and for dullness generally, is better worth having than a good voice. This sort of reading should never be in the least dramatic. The only object of the reader should be to make the listener forget that he has not got the print before him, to avoid his instinctive comment of 'Oh, get on!' and to leave him familiar with the morning's news, and not ignorant of 'the policy of the paper.' All this is not easily done. In fact, to read a newspaper well, you need to have some education, a great interest in affairs, some self-control, much tolerance, no tendency to dawdle, and no unconquerable desire to argue.

"It is strange that the reading of the Bible aloud in an acceptable manner should present—apparently—almost insuperable difficulties. It is written in the finest English of the finest period. It concerns subjects of universal and undying interest. It is endeared to every listener by tradition

and recollection. But the evidence proves it hard to read well. Of course, it may be argued that reverence for the sacred text as a whole forbids any effort to emphasize the secular beauty of its parts. Sacred droning may be very dull, but it remains true that great literature should not be read aloud like little literature. Some reverence for its greatness should appear, and a colloquial tone may well be very offensive to an audience bound to its seats. . .

"Light is often thrown upon obscure passages by reading them aloud. Modern critics seem to regard Browning as both clearer and less great than did those of the last generation. On the other hand, many of those who in their youth dilated upon his obscurity, deprecated the extravagant praise of him, and refused to read him, have now revised their judgment. They say that while they do not always understand, they are constantly forced to admire.* Let them cease hunting for allusions and try reading aloud. They will find the delightful passages longer and the jarring and dark ones infinitely less than they imagine as they glance down the page in search of gems.

"Poetry ought, we believe, to be read aloud. Its original connection with song and with company demands its interpretation by the voice. Again, no one wants to be quick over poetry. Those who like it at all will listen to it in patience. How much value to give to the rhythm is, of course, the first question which the reader must put to himself. The present writer always listens with greatest pleasure to those who over-emphasize rather than under-emphasize the rhyme. He knew, however, one most gifted reader, who gave it no emphasis at all. He was a parson, and a real lover of the poets, and it is undeniable that he read well; but one of his hearers, at least, was always distracted by the mental effort to preserve the music of the piece. The Victorians, led by Tennyson, went to the other extreme. Their poetry-reading became a sort of chant. The intensity of their enjoyment of the words before them was evident, and did sometimes perhaps communicate itself to their hearers. From a distance the sound was most peculiar; indeed, it was irresistibly comic. Those not accustomed to hear it wondered what on earth the sounds portended—whether they came from a man or an animal, and witnessed to pleasure or distress. A self-conscious generation is not

likely to follow their example. All the same, we think they erred upon the right lines. Poetry read to oneself may give full measure of pleasure to the really poetic. Some musical people find the greatest delight in reading a score. But the mass of the world wants to hear the sounds, not only mentally to interpret their indication. Lyrical poetry at least should be in some sense set to music, even if it be only the music of a good reading-voice.

OOOO

THE Local Government Board have issued a useful little booklet, entitled "Housing by Public Utility Societies." It shows in simple terms how small groups of people, whether of workers, or of workers acting jointly with employers, or other individuals, may band themselves together for the purpose of promoting housing schemes and obtaining financial assistance from the State. The President of the Local Government Board feels that with the facilities which the Government proposes to give, groups of people associated together in these Societies may do much to supplement the work of Local Authorities and to help towards a solution of the housing shortage. All who are interested in the subject should obtain a copy of this booklet, and further information as to the preparation of State-aided housing schemes is to be found in the Housing Manual, issued by the Local Government Board, and obtainable from H. M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, or through any bookseller, price 2s. 6d. net.

OOOO

REFERENCE is made in the annual report of the London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind, to the last air raid on Whit-Sunday night last year. "The pupils showed no nervousness on this or any previous occasions," it is stated. In fact, "many of the boys found a certain exhilaration in the noise of the barrage, and became expert in recognising by sound and direction several of the guns." Later, forty of the pupils were in bed at one time with influenza, but "all recovered quickly."

OOOO

SO impressed is a Liverpool shipowner with the work that is being carried on among the blind, that, in sending a substantial cheque to Sir Arthur Pearson, he stated that he had named his latest vessel "St. Dunstan's."

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING AND THE EYESIGHT.



THE conservation of good eyesight depends to a very large extent upon the quality of artificial light used when at work. Good artificial lighting is, however, not so much a question of the kind of illuminant, but of how the illuminant is used. Oil, gas, and electricity can each be used to produce satisfactory lighting, and each can be abused. In an interesting chapter of Mr. Posey's book on the "Hygiene of the Eye," Mr. Herbert Ives, speaking on the subject of Artificial Lighting, says:—

"The most fundamental principle of good artificial lighting is that the light must shine on the object of interest, but not in the eyes of the observer. All shades, globes, reflectors, and special arrangements of the light with respect to the walls and ceilings, if correctly conceived, should have this simple object constantly in view. Try as an experiment, looking at a picture, first with an unshielded light alongside and a little in front, then with the light shielded from the eyes. In the one case the eyes are blinded with the light; in the other the picture is clearly seen, although no more light falls on it than before. Light falling in the eyes instead of on the object is twice lost. Never let an unshielded light be visible. At the same time, the effort should be made to let a large part of the light fall on the object of interest, the book page, the sewing, etc. To achieve this double purpose, shades and reflectors of various types are essential."

Mr. Ives tells us that light sources are of two descriptions, those of small area, such as an incandescent electric lamp filament, or a gas mantle, and those of large area, such as an illuminated ceiling or side-wall. The illuminations due to these two classes of light sources are called respectively "directed" and "diffused" illumination. "By directed light we get sharply defined shadows. By

diffused light the shadows become indefinite or soft. Each kind of lighting has its place. Directed lighting, with its definite shadows, is adapted to places where differences in the relief of various parts must be readily appreciated, as in type setting, some kinds of sewing, and other localised work, especially if the light falls somewhat from the side. Diffused lighting, with its absence of contrasting illuminated and shadowed spots, is adapted to large spaces where all parts should have some light—to general rather than localised activities. All modern light sources are too bright to be looked at directly. . . . Usually even where directed light is essential, the electric lamp filament or gas mantle can be enclosed in a diffusing device, such as a frosted or opal globe or reflector, which will enormously reduce its annoying character if directly viewed, but will at the same time leave it small enough to give the necessary relief-revealing shadows. Beside the question of the actual brightness of a light is that of the contrast it makes with its background or surroundings. If a gas mantle is viewed against the bright sky in the day-time it is so little different in brightness that it causes no discomfort. But against the black night sky it is well nigh unbearable. No light source should be in such contrast with its immediate surroundings that these may not be looked at in entire comfort at the same time as the light.

"The various illuminated objects in a room should never be so different in brightness that the eye is strained in attempting to look from one to another, or must wait a perceptible period to become adapted. The practice of working at a table brightly illuminated by a lamp which is the only light in the room is to be condemned for this reason. On looking away from the table the eye practically falls over a lighted precipice." Mr. Ives declares that the direction from which the light in a room emanates is of

great importance. "The common arrangement of lighting fixtures," he says, "is that which makes the light come directly from above, but this is probably the least pleasing direction of all. Shadows then fall directly downward, resulting in a loss of our power to properly appreciate the sizes and positions of objects. Artists have long recognized that Nature looks its best when lighted by the rising or the setting sun, and looks its worst when the sun beats straight down. For the same reason that a tree is a more pleasing sight when its shadow falls away to one side than when the shadow is a mere blotch about its root, so a room with a goodly share of its light striking across it is more satisfactory than if lighted solely from above. . . . The light source is a centre of cheer and no mean part of the decorative make-up of the comfortable room. Where the lighting is entirely diffused much of the life and cosiness of the room is lost. But this natural yearning for an unmistakable centre of light radiation does not by any means call for a dazzling light shining in the eyes. It is quite sufficient for the shade or reflector surrounding the lamp to be a little brighter than its surroundings in order to satisfy this psychological need. Furniture and wall coverings are a vital part of the lighting scheme of the room. Dark walls absorb light, thus demanding the use of more gas or electricity to give adequate illumination. Walls and especially ceilings, should be light. Glossy surfaces should be avoided in the furniture or objects used in a room. A polished table top, or one covered with a glass plate, reflects the unshielded light of the table lamp or overhead fixture directly into the eyes. Another thing nearly as important as the placing of the lights is the position of the occupant of the room. Even in rooms where the lights are poorly arranged it is often possible for a person to so place himself that the annoying lights are no longer seen. A safe rule is never to face the point from which the light comes."

OOOO

"DID your late employer give you a testimonial?"

"Yes, but it doesn't seem to me any good."

"What did he say?"

"He said I was one of the best men his firm had ever turned out."

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE.

THE eighth of this season's monthly concerts was given in the Armitage Hall on Monday, May 26th. The arrangements were in Mr. Whitfield's hands and anticipations therefore of a thoroughly enjoyable hour were fully realised. The contributors to the programme were as follows:—Miss Thelma Petersen (vocalist), Mr. Norman Notley (vocalist), Mr. Ernest Whitfield (violinist), and Mr. Arthur Alexander (pianist).

Mr. Whitfield and Mr. Alexander were very happily associated in Beethoven's Sonata in A, and in some attractive smaller pieces in the second part of the programme. Mr. Alexander's choice in the way of piano solos fell upon some recently discovered MS. Sonatas of D. Scarlatti, which were most tastefully rendered and which proved fresh and interesting. It appears that this prolific composer is responsible for over six hundred sonatas, so the concert pianist has a good selection from which to choose.

Mr. Norman Notley has a very pleasing and attractive baritone voice and his two songs were very much appreciated. Miss Petersen has sung for us before (November, 1917), when she made a most favourable impression on all who then heard her. She has a rich-quality mezzo-soprano voice and her rendering of all she sings is always musically artistic. After her second contribution she was presented with a beautiful bouquet of carnations, subscribed for by the members of the Institute. It may be noted that Miss Petersen, assisted by Mr. Whitfield, recently gave a very successful recital at the Wigmore Hall, when she sang as many as twenty songs.

H. C. WARRILOW.

OOOO

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

ADVERSITY AND SHAKESPEARE.



TO endeavour, at this time of day, to say anything new about William Shakespeare, may be likened, indeed, to painting the lily. And yet there is always something new, something inspiring, something to be learnt from the greatest of all poets, so essentially British in his outlook, so essentially for all men and all times in his world-wide humanity, that it becomes a labour of love to enthuse on so potent an enthusiast. Shakespeare's philosophy fits all moods, his counsels can be adapted to any conditions, and it is the object of this article to try and show how splendid is his use of the word Adversity, how in many ways and in many plays he blazons abroad in language that all may enjoy and all understand that "nothing is a misery save our weakness apprehend it so." To the deaf, the dumb, the blind, the maimed, the halt, Shakespeare gives golden comfort; for all of us he expresses, as only his great mind could express, things that we all feel vaguely at times, yet have to allow a master-mind to express for us. For instance, everyone knows the famous lines out of "Hamlet":

"Who would fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscovered country from whose bourne
No traveller returns, puzzles the will
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of."

And how wonderfully Shakespeare laughs at death. What a world of truth lies in this:

"The best of rest is sleep,
And that thou oft provok'st; yet grossly fear'st
Thy death, which is no more."

Or again:

"If I must die,
I will encounter darkness as a bride,
And hug it in mine arms."

While volumes of philosophy could contain no more essential finality than these three simple lines:

"It seems to me most strange that men should fear;
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come."

And you will find nothing mawkish in Shakespeare, no squealer he; passive resistance finds no place in his philosophy, his is the creed of the fighter, his the acceptance of life as it is, and "gnarling sorrow hath less power to bite the man that mocks at it and sets it light," is a worthy forerunner of W. E. Henley's "I thank whatever gods there be for my unconquerable soul." It was Fénelon who said that we ought to be thankful that our sorrows are not of our own choosing, but Shakespeare finds the gold of the target more surely in

"Let me embrace thee, sour adversity,
For wise men say it is the wisest course"

While

"'Tis true that we are in great danger,
The greater therefore should our courage be"

Is a fine set off for

"Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once."

And Shakespeare is so extraordinarily apt. He has the wonderful art of being able to convey in a very few words what at first blush seems to be the most simple statement, yet into which can be read a whole host of winged thoughts. Take these two lines:

"Action is eloquence, and the eyes of the ignorant
More learned than the ears."

And there is the picture of your mental vision that has power to make mere physical sight of quite small account, though the pith of the whole quotation lies in "Action is eloquence," while the words that follow are the postscript that make the aphorism so doubly valuable.

And how many of us are there that ought to take this to heart:

"Our doubts are traitors,
And make us lose the good we oft might win
By fearing to attempt."

It was Martial who, years and years before Shakespeare, said, "When all the blandishments of life are gone the coward sneaks to death, the brave live on," a saying which, fine though it is, Shakespeare has expressed with delicious simplicity in "Play out the play."

WORKSHOP FOR BLIND WOMEN.

ON June 17th, Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, accompanied by Lady Frances Balfour, opened the new premises of the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, at 21, Crawford Street, W.

Mr. Godfrey Mowatt, chairman of the Barclay Home, Brighton, who presided, said that it was the third time Princess Louise had played an important part in events that advanced the progress of this work amongst blind women since the Hon. Mrs. Campion started, twenty years ago in Brighton, the only school, with a workshop attached, entirely for blind girls. The committee had decided that a minimum wage of 26s. 6d. a week was to be paid to Barclay workshop employees.

Mrs. F. Mildmay drew attention to pretty cotton fabrics in nice colours and patterns, as well as the hopsacks and serges made by the blind girls.

Sir Arthur Pearson, proposing a vote of thanks to Princess Louise, announced that the National Institute for the Blind had decided to open a college for the higher education of blind girls. There would be amongst the teachers a blind American lady, who was especially gifted, and had been teaching music in the United States.

Victoria Viscountess Templemore, Sir John and Lady Hare, Lady Foster-Fraser, the Hon. Mrs. Campion, Sir Washington Ranger, Mr. Henry J. Wagg, and Mrs. H. Ward were among those present.

OOOO

THE annual report of the Association for the Employment of Industrious Blind in Belfast contains the following information:—The number of blind benefited during the year was 155. The wages and bonuses paid amounted to £8,560, which was an increase of £2,796 on the previous year. In addition, £1,113 was paid in sick allowances, pensions and gratuities, making a total of £9,673 disbursed for wages, bonuses and gratuities during the year. The number of blind employed has not been materially increased.

OOOO

TEACHER: "Now, what is the highest form of animal life?"

CHILD: "The giraffe, mum."

SHEFFIELD INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

THE report of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind states that the trading account again shows a profit and a much larger turnover. In the workshops fifty men and sixteen women (including seven learners) have been employed during the year.

The Committee have, in conjunction with the Watch Committee of the Sheffield City Council, the Education Committee and the Guardians of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Unions, very carefully considered the question of providing a hostel or residential institution for blind men and women of the city who are not otherwise cared for in any way. Before this scheme is finally settled it has been thought advisable to consult outside authorities, viz.: Wortley, Penistone, Rotherham, Doncaster, Chesterfield, and Barnsley, as to whether they are agreeable to support a joint scheme, so as minimise cost and working expenses. The whole question of the blind is under careful consideration by the Committee, both as regards the hostel and other matters relating to the blind, the outcome of the Departmental Committee's Report on the Blind, and it is hoped in the near future that the lot of the blind may be materially improved. The Chairman of the Sheffield Institution has had the honour of being placed on the Local Advisory Committee set up by the Local Government Board for the purpose of dealing with all matters appertaining to the blind in the South Yorkshire area.

Miss Beatrice Fowler in the "Home Mission" report states that the Sunday school is still very well attended; 1,084 visits have been made to the blind in their homes. From the library 1,877 volumes have been issued during the year. The Superintendent of the school in Manchester Road (Mr. S. Maddocks) reported that the health of the children has been good. Osmond Davage, an old pupil, who was recommended to the Royal Normal College of Music, has been successful in gaining the F.R.C.O. and the L.R.A.M. diploma, and has secured an appointment near London. During the war the "playing fields" have been utilised for food purposes, and as a result the school has had a plentiful supply of vegetables all the year round.

THE LIFE STORY OF VALENTIN HAÜY.



IS it very generally known that Valentin Haüy, to whom the well-known Association for the Blind in Paris owes its name, was the first person of whom we have any record who conceived the idea of systematically teaching the blind to read by means of raised characters? It is said that Haüy's desire to attempt the education of the blind was first aroused by the sight of some blind persons who were stationed outside a café at St. Ovid's Fare, and made music in order to attract attention and excite public sympathy. Their performance, which was entirely discordant, appeared to delight the large audience. Not so Haüy, who, to quote his own words: "Conceived at that very instant the possibility of realizing, to the advantage of those unfortunate people, the means of which they had only an apparent and ridiculous enjoyment."

In his essay on the subject of reading Haüy says:—"Before our time various but ineffectual experiments had been tried. Sometimes by the assistance of characters moving upon a board and raised above its surface, at other times by the use of letters formed upon paper with the puncture of a pin, the principles or elementary characters of reading had been rendered obvious to the perception of the blind. Already had the wonders of the art of writing, which before had appeared chimerical, been realized; already, under their touch, which was now found a substitute for vision, had the conception of the blind assumed a body. But these gross and imperfect utensils only presented to the blind the possibility of attaining and enjoying the pleasures and advantages of reading without affording them the proper means of acquiring them. We had no difficulty in exploring them: their principles had existed for a long time, and were daily exhibited to our eyes. We

had observed that a printed leaf issuing from the Press presented to the eye, on the contrary side, the letters higher than its surface, but reversed both in their position and in their order.

"We ordered typographical characters to be cast of the form in which their impression strikes our eyes, and by applying to these a paper wet, as the printers do, we produced the first model which had till then appeared of letters whose elevation renders them obvious to the touch without the intervention of sight. Such was the origin of a library for the use of the blind. . ."

The man to whom the blind community is thus vastly indebted was born at Saint-Juste, in Picardy, in the year 1745. When quite young he was sent to Paris to be educated, and there he devoted himself principally to the study of languages and caligraphy. Haüy obtained a lucrative post at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as translator of official documents and cipher-work. It was at this time that he observed the ease and skill with which a well-known blind pianist, Mlle. Paradis, of Vienna, was able to read music which was represented by pins distributed over cushions, and also to explain geography with much accuracy by means of relief-maps. He then conceived the idea that the faculty of touch, by means of which the blind are enabled to form a correct impression of the objects which surround them, could be developed, and form the basis of systematic education. His first experiments necessitated the co-operation of a blind person, and this was provided by a beggar of the name of Lesueur, who was habitually stationed outside the church of Saint-Germain-des-Près. After six months of study, Lesueur was able to read and calculate, and to know a good deal of geography and the elementary principles of music. His speedy success aroused the attention of the Academy of Science, before which Haüy was called to read an account

"THE SUN-WORSHIPPER."



HE sat in a quiet corner of the sunny square, a look of tranquillity on his serene, weather-beaten face. It was an arresting face, marked and seamed by the passage of years. A few scanty grey locks escaped beneath the wide brim of his ancient straw hat. His mouth and chin were firm and one received the impression that the eyes—wide set under strongly marked brows—should have been dark and piercing even at his present age. But those eyes, alas! were closed, for he was blind.

Seated on a decrepit camp-stool, a book in Braille type across his knees, he presented at first what at one time was a pitifully common spectacle—that of a blind beggar!

Instinctively, my hand went to my pocket, as my eyes sought for the familiar little tin cup. But to my surprise it was missing. So was the inevitable, faithful little terrier, and the badge with the tragic inscription "Blind."

He had observed instantly my halting step, and now raised his face to mine, with a cheery smile:

"Good mornin', lady! Lovely day, ain't it?" he remarked, "The sun do seem to put new life into a body, so it do!"

I came to a standstill beside him, wondering at the intuition that had defined

my sex for him merely by the sound of my step.

"Do you always sit here in the summer?" I asked, "I seem to have noticed you in the distance, though I've never passed you before!"

"Yes, lady, every day when the sun shines. I be powerful fond o' the sun for many reasons!"

"Will you tell me some of them?" I asked.

"Well, for one thing, you unnerstand, I can see it better 'n anythin' else!" he replied simply.

"See it!" I echoed in astonishment, "I beg your pardon, but aren't you—aren't you—"

"Blind, lady?" he quietly concluded for me. "Oh, yes; I'm quite blind. Lost my sight when I wasn't 'igher 'n that"—with an explanatory gesture of his hand—"meddlin' with feyther's chemicals *that* were! I'm afeared I were a reg'lar little wrong 'un in them days!"

"You were saying that—" I began.

"Aye, aye, lady, you does well to bring me back to the p'int. My old brain do get awanderin' these days! I were sayin' I can see the sun best of all. It's just a figger o'

speech us blind folk gets into the way o' usin'. You see, our fingers become our eyes, an' what we feel we *see*! An' a sense o' touch gets nearly as useful an' tells you 'most as much as a sense o' sight. But



THE BLIND NEEDLEWOMAN.

what I says about the sun is this. You don't 'ave to touch 'im to know what 'e's like—'e touches *you*! You just feel 'im all over you—warmin' your 'eart, purifyin' your thoughts and cheerin' your sperits! You can't never be cast down nor discontented when the sun's ashinin' on you! Every mornin' when I wakes I says to my little gran'darter, 'Be the sun ashinin' to-day, Bess?' an' if so be as its 'yes,' off she goes an' brings my old 'at and my favourite book, an' brings me an' this 'ere di-lapidated old stool which 'as stood my friend so many year, to this quiet corner, where the sun seems to shine most o' the day. She leaves quite content and 'appy, you see, till my dinner's ready. Then back she comes for me, an' we all 'as our meal. Then she drops me 'ere agin on 'er way to school an' fetches me in the evenin'. M'appen it don't sound much of a life to you, but I wouldn' arst nuthin' better for myself. Me an' the sun 'ave some'ow got to unnerstand each other!"

"And do you never find it grows monotonous?" I asked.

"Not a bit of it, lady! There's quite a lot o' things goes on in this old Square, as you wouldn't dream of. An' the friends I've got! There's the little dressmaker as lodges in the corner 'ouse—it's 'er what 'elps me to get my books from the library. Then there's the policeman on the beat, 'e never passes without a friendly word an' the offer of 'is pouch. There's the little gel over the way, the twins with curly 'air round the corner, and best of all there's Peter!"

"Who is Peter?" I asked.

"'E's the big retriever dawg as belongs to the keeper of the Square Garden. Every mornin' as is does that there blessed animal come to me with a parcel in 'is mouth. Sometimes its a screw o' baccy, sometimes a sandwich, sometimes a bit o' fruit or a morsel o' cake. An' after 'e's given it up, there 'e'll sit, with 'is great 'ead arestin' on my knee, while I fondles an' talks to 'im! No, I ain't never wearisome, lady, I've got too many good friends, you see, but the best friend as I've got, or ever expect to 'ave, is this 'ere glorious sun!"

And somehow, as I resumed my way, I could not help envying the old blind man in his quiet corner, receiving and reflecting the rays of the sun he loved so much!

Alice M. RAIKER.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

LIST of successful candidates at the 1919 examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind, showing in which subjects they obtained Honours:—

George William Bloomfield. Honours: Woodwork.

Fannie Burgess. Honours: Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Hand Knitting.

Mrs. Lilian Cassidy. Honours: Arithmetic.

Elizabeth Williams Dawson. Honours: Practical Braille, Physical Training, Recreation, Hand Sewing.

Dorothea Fry. Honours: Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching.

Jessie Stewart Lang. Honours: Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching, Typewriting.

Florence Winifred Margetts. Honours: Practical Braille, Practice of Teaching, Theory of Education, Infant Teaching.

Constance Irene Purnell. Honours: Arithmetic.

Sylvester Purnell. Honours: Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching.

Clara Tetley. Honours: Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching.

Mrs. Gwen Dorothy Helen Wainwright. Honours: Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic.

oooo

THE ROYAL MIDLAND INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

THE seventy-fourth annual report of the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind is just to hand, and points to satisfactory progress in the various departments. The number of blind persons connected with the Institution is 116. The Committee record that of the twenty blind persons who have left the institution during the year from causes other than bad health, nineteen are now leading lives of useful industry, and are in great measure, if not wholly, self-supporting. The sales for the year amounted to £14,056 8s. The wages paid to the blind workpeople (exclusive of the staff) amounted to £2,181 6s. 10d.

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND.



WE have received the twelfth annual report of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, which contains much interesting information. This Commission is charged with the duty of seeking out and registering new cases of blindness, of following up cases already known, of furthering measures to prevent blindness, of giving specialized education and promoting the efficiency and happiness of blind men and women.

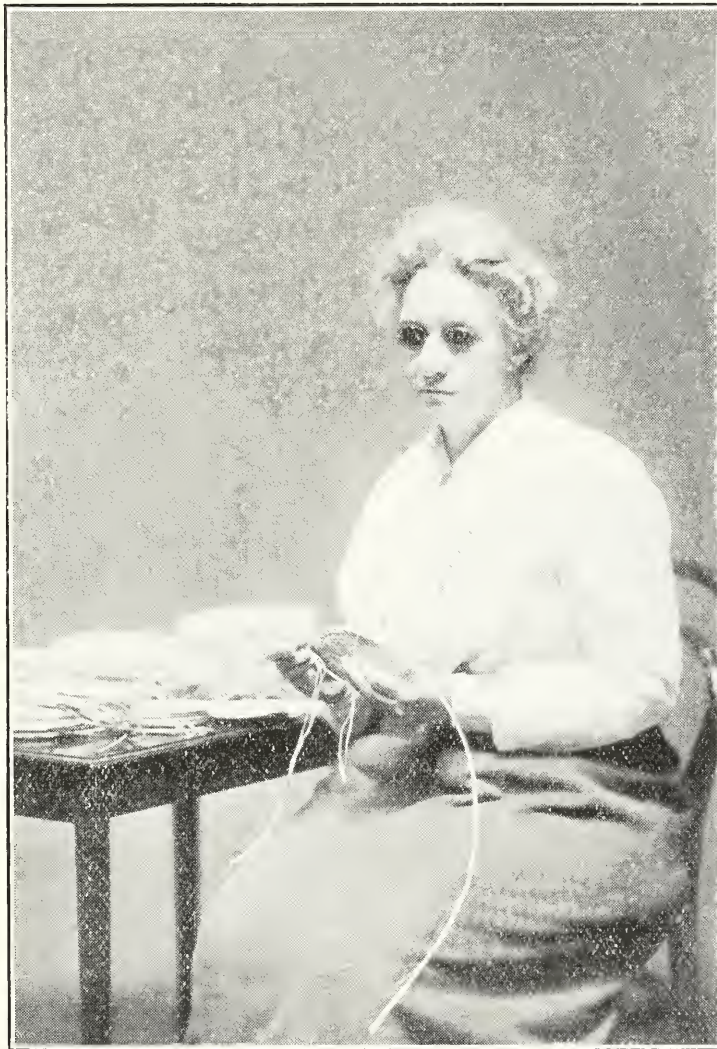
The work of the Commission for the Blind during the past year has shared the difficulties which the war has laid upon all fields of public endeavour. Part of the sympathies and the financial support of the public have very naturally been diverted into other channels; on the other hand, the return of blinded soldiers from the front has caused many people to reflect on the general question of the education of the blind.

The Commission this year appointed to its staff five totally blind workers. The policy was put into execution on a trial basis, to determine whether the blind social worker could produce equal results with the seeing. The experiment has been eminently successful. "There is," to quote the words of the report, "among the

blind a bond of sympathy which others sometimes fail to realize; therefore there are reasons why blind persons with innate qualities for social work should be able to carry on some parts of our programme even more satisfactorily than seeing workers. Since the Commission for the Blind exists for the sake of the blind it is policy to employ the blind as its workers whenever it can effectively do so."

Much good work is being done in the sight-saving classes. There are ten of these

classes in the State, and they provide for the education of children who are not blind enough to require training by the touch method in a school for the blind, but whose eyesight is deficient. Great care has been taken to have those children whose visual need is greatest received in these classes. As part of its work in connection with the prevention of blindness the Commission has this year placed before the public facts covering the common causes of needless blindness, preventive and remedial measures, resources of the Commonwealth for helping the blind, and essential matters that teachers should know regarding the education and



THE BLIND TABLE-MAT MAKER.

work of the blind. A most important department of the Commission is the Home Teaching Department which is taking an

ever-increasing number of pupils under its care.

As regards the employment of the blind, the Commission endeavours throughout to make the blind man feel that he may become financially independent, if he is willing to go through the training necessary for the requisite technical dexterity. The superintendent of employment for the blind visited 100 factories during the past year, including, among others, leather, paper, envelope, corset, drug, glue, ammunition, shoe, candy, and various kinds of machine shops. At every one of these inquiries were made as to whether processes were employed which a blind person might perform with a reasonable chance of success. As a direct result fifty-three blind workers were placed in office or other positions, and forty-nine made good—a percentage of over ninety. This proportion is greater than would be expected of ordinary sighted workers. Of the four who did not make good, two were obliged to resign owing to ill-health. The employers were more than satisfied with the quality of the work done by the blind men, and their influence in the shops was regarded as a most beneficial one. In the Commission's shop schools and industrial classes instruction is given to a limited number of pupils with a view to home or shop employment in these industries; also in rug, mop, broom making, willow-ware making, and in art fabric weaving, as vacancies occur in the various workshops and as the business expands.

The blinded soldiers and sailors go to Evergreen, United States Army General Hospital No. 7, in Baltimore, where they are trained. After they are discharged their training is continued at the Red Cross Institute for the Blind in Baltimore, or under the direction of the Federal Board for Vocational Education.

oooo

AN extraordinary disaster recently occurred in America. A tank containing two million gallons of molasses exploded, killing twelve people, and deluging the district with treacle. The cause of the explosion is not known, but it is supposed that some alcohol, put into the tank to make the molasses flow easily, had become vapourised, and that an attendant must have lowered a lighted lantern to see how full it was, and thus ignited the explosive spirit.

ROYAL VICTORIA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

IN the annual report of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Benwell Dene, Newcastle, the Committee of Management record another year of progress and usefulness, in spite of the trying circumstances due to the war. The Institution has been able to pay its way, and the Committee gratefully acknowledge the financial help received.

The Central Advisory Committee, it is stated, had recommended to the Local Government Board the desirability of setting up local committees to deal with local needs. For that purpose the Board had determined to utilise the services of the existing unions, and in order to carry out the recommendations of the Departmental Committee, a local Advisory Committee of thirty members had been appointed for the six northern counties of England. Those counties were divided into twelve districts, of which Northumberland county is one. For each of those districts a District Committee is to be appointed, and a conference in each district would be held at an early date for that purpose. It would be one of the duties of such committees to compile accurate registers of all the blind in each district, so that every blind person may be enabled to participate in the beneficent provisions for which some measure of State aid may become available.

oooo

ROYAL DUNDEE INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

IN presenting the fiftieth annual report of the Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind, the Directors state that the results of the year are in every respect satisfactory. The sales of goods, the wages paid to blind workers, and the subscriptions in aid of the Institution, have all been much higher than in any previous year. The demand for goods made by blind workers was exceptionally large. The cash received for goods sold and the accounts outstanding amount to £15,115 or £3,618 more than last year. Raw materials and goods cost £8,162, or £1,536 more than a year ago. The blind workers were paid £4,137, showing an increase over the previous year of £519.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BLINDNESS.



DURING the summer of 1918, Miss Kate Foley (Home Teacher for the California State Library) delivered a series of five lectures at the University of California, at Berkeley, and at Los Angeles. They were the outcome of almost a quarter of a century spent in work for the blind, and were written from the standpoint of a blind person seeking to better the condition of the blind. These lectures have now been issued in pamphlet form, and we quote the following from "The Psychology of Blindness," as we think it contains much interesting matter:—

" . . . First let us consider the subject from the point of view of one who has been blind from early infancy, whose fingers are his eyes, and whose mental vision enables him to see many things not revealed by physical sight. A blind man once said, when asked if he would not be glad to have his eyesight, 'To improve the organs I have would be as good as to give me that which is wanting in me.' This sentence sums up the whole aim of blind education. Dr. Eichholtz, a noted educator of the blind, says: 'Education of the blind absolutely fails in its object, in so far as it fails to develop the remaining faculties to compensate for the want of sight. Touch and sight must be developed by means which practically in all respects are dissimilar. A blind man discerns the sensation from the real presence of an object at his fingers' end, only by the force or weakness of that very sensation.'

"I think hearing is the first sense to be cultivated, both in the infant and the adult suddenly deprived of eyesight. Through its ears the child recognizes voices, detects different footfalls, is enabled to measure distance with a fair degree of accuracy, and can form a very clear idea as to the shape and dimensions of a room. All this

information is conveyed to the normal child through the eyes.

"The second sense to be developed in the blind child is that of touch, and this development begins at a very early date, supplementing the sense of hearing. Long before the child is old enough to read, its fingers have become its eyes, and each of the ten fingers carries its quota of information to the active brain, the amount and quality of this information increasing with the mental development. In addition to fingers, the nerves of the face and those of the feet contribute their share of information.

"The last of the trio of senses whose development compensates in large measure for the want of eyesight is that of smell. Through this sense the child comes very close to the heart of Nature. In the case of Helen Keller, the olfactory nerves have been cultivated to a very high degree, and through this sense she is often able to recognize her friends. A little blind boy once told me that each member of his family had a distinct odour, by which he could tell things worn by them or books they had handled. I do not think the blind have a keener sense of taste than any other class of people, although this claim is often made. . . . We have, then, the senses of hearing, touch, and smell, each playing its part in the development of the blind child, and each playing it so well that the lack of eyesight is not keenly felt in early childhood.

"'In judging people,' Miss Foley goes on say, 'the voice is my infallible guide. I am instantly attracted or repelled by a voice, and my estimate of character is rarely incorrect. By the voice I am able to form a very accurate idea as to height, weight, and age, so here I do not feel the lack of eyesight. The voice is an unfailing index to character, and the trained ear is quick to catch the slightest variation in tone, and can detect traits and moods hidden from the eye, because not registered upon the face. There

is a strong voice, a brave voice, a voice full of hope and cheer, a tired voice, a crafty voice, a voice full of dull despair. And so here again I do not feel the lack of eyesight in noting differences in my fellow men.'

"Miss Foley then proceeds to the consideration of those deprived of sight in adult life. Here she quotes Diderot's 'Essay on Blindness.' He says: 'The help which the senses reciprocally afford to each other hinders their improvement,' and so the adult whose movements are no longer directed by his eyes, feels utterly helpless and bewildered, as one who finds himself on a strange road, very late at night, with no ray of light to guide him. The first sensation when thus plunged into darkness is that of unreality. But . . . the sudden loss of sight gives, after a time, something like the lash of a whip to the whole organism. All the other senses are roused to greater sharpness. When the blind soldier fully realizes this, he will perhaps arrive at a state in which I have seen some men blind from birth, the state of being proud of being blind. Why should they not be proud, when they feel that they are as capable of accomplishing certain things, of practising certain trades as other men? In administering to the needs of this readjustment period, the volunteer should be an optimist, and should exercise common-sense in guiding the adult over the first lap of the unfamiliar road. Of this readjustment period, Clarence Hawkes, the well-known blind naturalist, who lost his eyesight at the age of 15, says: 'The loss of eyesight seems, for a time, to upset the perfect working of the nervous system. The nerves have to adjust themselves to new conditions, and re-arrange the channels of communication. On first losing one's sight, one is impressed with the fact that all noises sound much too loud, and it takes several months for sounds to get toned down to their normal value.'

"As to the blind child the senses of touch, hearing and smell prove efficient carriers of knowledge, so these senses come to the rescue of the blind adult, and compensate, in large measure, for the loss of eyesight. Training does not increase the sensitiveness of a sense organ. It merely puts this capacity to better use. So the blind adult does not suddenly come into possession of wonderful powers, but, in time, his 'acquired sense perception' enables him to do many

things hitherto considered impossible of accomplishment. The adult soon learns to recognize voices and footsteps, to measure distance with a fair degree of accuracy, and in many cases to go about alone. In a surprisingly short time, he becomes accustomed to the new conditions, the various organs perform their new functions, and he finds life in sightless land to be, in many respects, very like life in that world of light and colour, now only a memory.

"At the end of the lecture Miss Foley quotes the concluding words of Clarence Hawkes' book 'Hitting the Dark Trail':

"'If night has overtaken me at noonday, yet have I found beauty in night. The sun at noontide showed me the world and all its wonder, but the night has shown me the universe, the countless stars and illimitable spaces, the vastness and wonder of all life. The perfect day only showed me man's world, but the night showed me God's Universe.'"

GUIDES FOR THE DEAF BLIND

THE deaf blind find it extremely difficult to get guides to go out with them. It has been brought to the notice of the Secretary of the D.B.S. many times lately that the deaf blind are often obliged to remain indoors day after day because they had no one to take them out.

Helpers and friends of the deaf blind are called upon to assist them in this matter by any means in their power. They can at least send a contribution to the Secretary for the purpose of starting and supporting a Guide Fund, and the Secretary would undertake to see that proper guides were found.

M. CHRISTINE BAYLIS,
Secretary, Deaf Blind Blessing Society,
39, Boughton Street, Worcester.

oooo

WE now hear that the authorities have decided that, if a child should fall into any lake or river and be in peril of drowning, any dog may be allowed to remove its muzzle for the purpose of effecting a rescue.

Punch.

SEEING WITHOUT EYES.



MR. JOHN GRIMSHAW WILKINSON, the well-known Leeds botanist, has been blind since early youth. He admits to being able to recognize and identify a thousand trees all by the remarkably developed sense of taste and touch. According to the *Yorkshire Post*, he recently carried out an open-air investigation that would have tested all the powers of an experienced observer, endowed with perfect vision. At Moseley Bottom, near the North-Eastern Railway line, are three curious stone chairs hewn out of the solid rock. The origin of these chairs is unknown, and Mr. Wilkinson's comments on the subject are interesting. After describing the chairs minutely with regard to their position, exact length, width, etc., he goes on to say: "There is nothing to show that the chairs are of great antiquity. There is a mark something like an old-fashioned inverted 'W,' but this is not the chevron work of the Normans, such as is seen on the church door of Adel Church, as the two 'U's' which form the letter are of a different angle from that of any Norman work. On another of the chairs is a rude carving of what might be called a sword, but this, again, is not like the three swords which form the arms at Kirkstall Abbey." While

he could find no markings that might be termed classical, he noticed a great many pick-marks at the back of the three chairs which show that they have been carved out of the solid block by such a pick as is used by quarreymen in dressing stone. The chairs exhibit no indication of geometrical accuracy, and appear to be the work of amateurs. Some stone troughs situated near by are, according to Mr. Wilkinson, of excellent chiselled workmanship, and in marked contrast to the ruder sculpture of the stone

chairs. There is also a millstone grit column, about five feet high, and finely weathered, which probably stood in pre-Roman days where it now stands. Comparing the weathering of the troughs and their column with that of the three chairs, Mr. Wilkinson thinks the latter cannot be more than 200 years old.

The problem of the origin of these chairs is of sufficient interest to archæologists, but of more general interest is the fact that so many useful and purely objective observations could have been made unaided by a man who is totally blind.

OOOO



THE BLIND SLIPPER MAKER.

WAITER: "Would you like boiled beef or roast beef, sir?" Absent-minded Editor: "Can't say till I've seen the proof. Let me have two pulls of each, and I will let you know."

TRIBUTE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S FROM CANADA.

WE have received the copy of an extract from a report of a recent sitting of the Canadian House of Commons, which we feel sure will be of interest to our readers. In dealing with the estimates of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, Mr. W. O. Rowell, of the Privy Council, Ottawa, had occasion to speak of St. Dunstan's Hostel and the work of Sir Arthur Pearson. A few days later Mr. Rowell wrote to Sir Arthur: "May I again congratulate you on the wonderful work you have done at St. Dunstan's. What you have accomplished seems to be almost miraculous. . . ."

We quote the extract from the official report of proceedings in the House of Commons, Ottawa, Friday, 23rd May, 1919:—

Mr. McKenzie: In my own town I know a young man who lost his sight, and after coming back from France he entered some school of vocational training in England—I forget it's name.

Mr. Rowell: Would it be St. Dunstan's?

Mr. McKenzie: I think so. First he learned stenography and became an efficient stenographer—and I mention it as an extraordinary thing that a man totally blind could learn stenography—but he was a strong, active fellow and preferred manual work, so in the same college he took up a carpentry course, which he completed. He returned home with ample means for starting in business. I thought it was a very excellent institution, and if we have more of such institutions we will be doing some good.

Mr. Rowell: An arrangement was worked out between the department and St. Dunstan's Hostel in England for the training of blinded ex-members of the Canadian Forces. Further arrangements have now been made for the continuation of their training if necessary in Canadian institutions. The St. Dunstan's scheme of after-care for the blind is being fostered in Canada from Pearson Hall at Toronto, called after Sir Arthur Pearson, the head of St. Dunstan's Hostel. What they have done for the blind is almost a miracle, and too great credit cannot be given to Sir Arthur Pearson. We are trying to follow his example here.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind.

FICTION

- Robbery Under Arms, 9 vols. *R. Boldrewood*
The Roundabout, 4 vols. *J. E. Buckrose*
Air Men o' War, 3 vols. *Boyd Cable*
Losing and Finding *J. Chappell*
Fine Clay, 6 vols. *J. Clarke*
Lost Ball, 4 vols. *Thomas Cobb*
Sincerity, 6 vols. *Deeping*
Man with the Twisted Lip. *Sir A. Conan Doyle*
Some Holiday Adventures of Mr. Davenant, 3 vols.
..... *Lord W. F. Hamilton*
Study in Temptations, 2 vols. *J. Oliver Hobbes*
Turnstile, 5 vols. *A. E. W. Mason*
Roden's Corner, 4 vols. *H. S. Merriman*
Making of a Novelist, 2 vols. *Christie Murray*
Puritan's Wife, 2 vols. *Max Pemberton*
Snare, 4 vols. *R. Sabatini*
Valerie Upton, 5 vols. *Mrs. A. Sidgwick*
Great Age, 4 vols. *J. C. Snaith*
Short Flights with the Cloud Cavalry. "Spin"
Our Great Adventure, 2 vols. *H. Strang*
Black Hole of Calcutta, and other stories
..... *C. Yonge and others*

MISCELLANEOUS

- Psalms of the West (Anon.)
Annals of the Parish or the Chronicles of Dalmailing
(1760-1810), 3 vols.
..... *M. Balwhidder* (edited by *John Galt*)
Curiosities of Natural History, 3 vols. *F. Buckland*
Our Marvellous Empire. *C. R. Clements*
Trips to Palestine and Africa *Mrs. Goodhart*
Spirit of the Age, 4 vols. *William Hazlitt*
John Galsworthy *S. Kaye-Smith*
Before Our Lord Came, 3 vols. *Lady Amabel Kerr*
Elements of Economics of Industry, 5 vols.
..... *Alfred Marshall*
Horse Sense, 2 vols. *Walter Mason*
Essay on Comedy. *G. Meredith*
Graduated Exercises and Examination Papers in
Book-keeping, 3 vols. *P. Murray*
Renaissance, 3 vols. *E. Sichel*

FOREIGN

- Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme, 2 vols. *J. P. de Moliere*
Cyrano de Bergerac, 3 vols. *E. Rostand*

MUSIC—PIANO

- T.C.L. Music for "First Steps" Examination
..... Edited by *M. B. Foster*
Tarantella *E. German*
Fughetta in C *Handel*
A Gay Tune *H. Farjeon*
Two's Company *A. H. Brewer*
Gavotte, No. 3 of "A Tiny Suite," Op. 46 b. *T. F. Dunhill*
May-Day Dance. *E. C. Winchester*

STUDIES

- Study in G, Op. 66, No. 9 *Loeschhorn*
Study in C, Op. 176, No. 1. *J. B. Duvernoy*

ORGAN

- Ave Maria, Etude, Op. 5 *Henselt-Matthews*
Blest are the Departed. *Spohr-Matthews*
Adieu, Op. 32, No. 4. *Del Valle de Paz-Matthews*
Andante, Op. 78. *Schubert-Matthews*

SONGS

- Four Songs, Op. 14 *R. Quilter*
1. Autumn Evening 3. A Last Year's Rose
2. April 4. Song of the Blackbird

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—No. 32.

AUGUST, 1919.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.



Y the time these words appear in print Peace will have been duly solemnised and celebrated. Looking back over the past years, it sometimes seems impossible to believe that it is five years ago since that fateful day in August, 1914, when Great Britain took up the challenge that Germany had flung in the face of humanity.

We ourselves were at the end of July attending an important Educational Conference in the East of England, a Conference consisting of earnest and thoughtful-minded men and women, whose whole lives had been given up to educational reform, and we recall how, as the rumblings of the earthquake so imminent fell on startled ears, we even then found it impossible to believe that in a few short weeks Germany's holocaust for bloodshed would be a reality. For four years the philosophy of destruction dominated the world. We have seen with what terrible remorselessness the Genius of Scientific Destruction added more and more weapons to her armoury—poison gas, tanks, guns of terrific size and range, destruction dropping from the clouds and lurking beneath the waves, and ever the whole ghastly business becoming more and more scientific, more and more ruthless, more and more devastating. Five years ago a railway disaster in the papers was a source of topic for weeks; and then for four years came stories of horrors and tragedies almost hourly that assuredly has calloused the hearts of the tenderest among us, and has inured us to

the sight and sense of tragedies which, before the war, would have made men's souls sick even to imagine.

And now we are at Peace. Yes, the Peace Treaty has been signed, and once more we can go about our daily tasks and pleasures without the dread that was by our side hour by hour through those long years of bloodshed. But we must not be too impatient. We must remember the laws that govern cause and effect. You cannot put a torch to a barrel of explosives and not expect an explosion; the result of the explosion may mean a devastated town, and you cannot expect that town to go about its task as if nothing had happened or the remaining inhabitants to find houses and habitations grow like mushrooms in a night. The unrest and turmoil that is still to be seen all the world over is the inevitable concomitant of war. It may take years and years for this old world of ours to win back to anything approaching normality. As that very virile and comforting philosopher, Samuel Butler, has said: "When one comes to think of it, death and birth are so closely correlated that one could not destroy either without destroying the other at the same time. It is extinction that makes creation possible." I think we should do well to remember that. Yes, it is extinction that makes creation possible. We must set our faces boldly towards the goal which always lies ahead of us, no matter who we are or what we do.

* * *

In our last month's Editorial we dealt with a topic of unfailing interest and importance to the blind, that of reading aloud. It does not matter how expert a man may be

at reading Braille, for wide as the range of Braille literature is, and wider as it is becoming, it would be utterly impossible to make the embossing of new Braille books keep pace with the publication of sighted works. This is so self-evident that it surely needs no further elaboration. Then comes the question: How is the blind man to keep in touch with literature apart from Braille and in such a manner as to ensure good reading? It takes a long time to read through a close-packed book of, say, 300 pages. Bearing this in mind, the National Institute for the Blind has determined to start a Library of Condensed Books. The services of men who have devoted their whole life to literature, and who are conversant with all the best books in the language, have been enlisted, and it is proposed to form a library of what we may call "boiled-down" books. All the finest passages in the books thus treated have been left in, and explanatory passages are given to bridge over the parts that have been cut out, with the result that blind book-lovers will be able to enjoy having books read aloud to them in half the time that would be occupied in reading the book as a whole. In order that as many as possible may become subscribers to the library, it is proposed to make a charge of 12s. per annum; for this sum books can be obtained at the rate of two a month and *pro rata* for further subscription, and any book not returned within a month after having been despatched will be charged for at cost price. If more are desired additional volumes can be obtained at the rate of 6s. for one extra volume per month, but in all cases a year's subscription must be paid. Carriage one way will be paid by the Institute. The books will be sent out in straw-board wrappers, on the reverse side of which will be a printed label for the return of the volumes. The condensation of the books has been effected in such a manner that the whole book can be read if desired. Kindly address all correspondence concerning the library: "Editorial Department, National Institute for the Blind." The following books have been abridged:—

Abraham Lincoln.....*Lord Charnwood*
 A Broken Journey*Mary Gaunt*
 Across the Stream*E. F. Benson*
 A Naval Lieutenant, 1914-1918*Etienne*
 Cappy Ricks.....*P. B. Kyne*
 Christopher and Columbus
 (Author of "Elizabeth and her German Garden")

Clemenceau.....*Camille Ducray*
 Crescent and Iron Cross*E. F. Benson*
 Eminent Victorians*Lytton Strachey*
 Far away and long ago.....*W. H. Hudson*
 It is never too late to mend*Charles Reade*
 Joan and Peter*H. G. Wells*
 Lavengro*G. Borrow*
 Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Benjamin Franklin
 Memoirs of Benvenuto Cellini
 Mr. Standfast*John Buchan*
 Mufti*"Sapper"*
 Occasional Addresses*H. H. Asquith*
 Ravenshoe*Henry Kingsley*
 Four-fifty Miles to Freedom
 Capt. Johnston and Capt. Yearsley
 Ready-Money Mortiboy*W. Besant and J. Rice*
 Sarchedon*G. Whyte Melville*
 Sylvia Scarlett*Compton Mackenzie*
 Sylvia and Michael*Compton Mackenzie*
 The Adventure of Life*R. W. Mackenna*
 The Cloister and the Hearth*Charles Reade*
 The Count of Monte-Cristo (1st vol.)*A. Dumas*
 The Deemster.....*Hall Caine*
 The Happy Warrior.....*A. S. M. Hutchinson*
 The House of the Seven Gables
 Nathaniel Hawthorne
 The Last Million*Ian Hay*
 The Long Road to Baghdad*Edmund Candler*
 The Rise of the Dutch Republic*J. Morley*
 The Roll Call*Arnold Bennett*
 The Sale of Lady Daventry*Winifred Boggs*
 The Scarlet Letter*Nathaniel Hawthorne*
 The Scouring of the White Horse...*Thomas Hughes*
 The Shadow Line*J. Conrad*
 The Three Black Pennys.....*J. Hergesheimer*
 T. Tembarom*F. Hodgson Burnett*
 Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea
 Jules Verne
 Two Years Before the Mast.....*R. H. Dana*
 Vanity Fair*W. M. Thackeray*
 When the World Shook*Rider Haggard*
 Yellow English*Dorota Flatau*
 Walter Greenway*Robert Holmes*

OOOO

NEWCASTLE MUSICAL TOURNAMENT.

IN connection with the above festival, held during the week 23rd to 28th June, twenty-five pupils of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind won the third prize in the Children's Choir Singing Competition, open to children between the ages of 10 and 16. Test piece, "Mister Nobody" (Percy Buck). Jean Welsh won the second prize for elocution, competitors being from 14-16 years of age. Test piece, "He fell among thieves" (Henry Newbolt). David Christie and Thomas Howe were successful in gaining the first prize for pianoforte duet playing, competitors being under 15 years of age. Test piece, "Valse Suite," Op. 71, three-fours, Book 1, No. 2 (Coleridge Taylor).

THE BLIND AND THE STATE.

BY BEN PURSE.



THOUGH the object of this article is explanatory rather than critical, it will be at once obvious to our readers that the system of Government grants shortly to be instituted cannot be regarded with any degree of satisfaction. We have waited long and patiently for the State to demonstrate some practical interest in the affairs of the Blind, and after protracted delays we had reason to believe that at length the potentialities of good government would be freely exercised on our behalf. Whatever may be said in justification of the proposals before us, one thing is very clear, it is, that all students of the problem will be keenly disappointed with the beggarly pittance allocated by the Government towards the amelioration of the conditions of the Blind.

When one recalls the conclusions and recommendations of the recent Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, the present proposals are puny in the extreme, and certainly not calculated to inspire us with confidence in any action the State may propose to take in the future. This conviction will be strengthened as we proceed to explain the nature and purposes for which grants in aid will be presently available.

It is necessary in the first place to explain that the supplementary estimates have not yet been approved by Parliament, but it is more than likely that the monies to be asked for on behalf of the Blind will be freely voted by the House of Commons. It is on the assumption therefore, that Parliament will grant the necessary money that we are submitting the following explanations.

It must be understood that for the first financial year at all events, or during that portion of the year in which grants will be available, a sum of £109,000 will be allocated in the form of grants in aid to

distinct services in which the interests of the blind are involved. Perhaps one of the most important of such services will be the proposed *per capita* grant to Workshops for the Blind.

Assuming that about 2,000 workers are employed on the basis of £20 per head, it will be seen that something like £40,000 will thereby be absorbed during the first year. It is interesting to note that those engaged in Home Industries who are directly associated with an approved Institution will be similarly dealt with; but it is exceedingly difficult to give any reliable estimate of the sum which will be needed for this service, by reason of the fact that no serious effort has yet been made by most Institutions to attach those who are engaged in home industries. The money will only be available under carefully drawn regulations, and the knowledge of this consideration may induce the authorities of institutions not only to link up the home worker, but to take such steps as are imperatively necessary to see that he is properly supplied with raw material, to effectively supervise his labour, and as far as is practicable to find a market for his finished products. It must, moreover, be understood that all grants in aid will only be available on compliance with properly drafted regulations, though it is most essential that such orders should be drawn with reasonable care, so as not to make the receipt of a grant a penalty rather than an advantage.

One of the most useful of these grants is that under which Home Teaching Societies will benefit. It is here proposed to give a *per capita* grant of £78 per annum for every teacher employed, and in this connection the valuable suggestion is made that in rural areas one teacher should be employed to every thirty people; and in urban districts one to every fifty. Such assistance, if properly utilised, should provide employment for a much larger number of competent blind persons, and it is interesting to observe

that in defining what constitutes the business of the home teacher, proper regard is paid to the necessity for giving instruction in light manual occupations. Thus, at least, there is a hope that we may get rid of the stultified conception that the work of a home teacher merely consists of reading to the person visited and finally bidding him "Good-day" without offering that practical assistance in training which is so essential to augment his slender means.

Homes providing permanently for the blind are to be entitled to a *per capita* grant of £13 per annum and hostels in like manner to a sum of £5.

Book production is to be assisted to the extent of 2s. 6d. per volume, and periodicals, pamphlets and sheet music to the extent of 2d. per copy.

In the opinion of the writer, the least justifiable form of expenditure is that which proposes to give grants to the seven Unions of Societies and Agencies for the Blind, established in England and Wales on the basis of £20 for every 100 blind persons in the areas over which they are said to have jurisdiction; thus in the Northern counties we have 8,352 blind people, and the amount of grant to which the Union will be entitled is: £1,670; the Midland counties with 3,706 blind persons will be entitled to: £740; the North Western area with 1,413 blind people will receive £280; South Wales with 1,198 blind persons will receive £240. The Western Division with 2,180 will receive £435. Home counties with 3,888 blind persons will be entitled to £775, and London with 3,162 blind persons will receive about £630. Thus on a total of 25,292 persons the Unions will secure over £5,000. It is by no means clear what portion, if any, of this sum will go directly to the blind. Indeed that is a pertinent criticism, which may be with strict justice applied to most of these grants in aid.

Scotland's proportion of these financial disbursements will be about £16,000, whilst Ireland receives nothing under the scheme. It is unnecessary in this article to burden the statement with a lot of intricate details. Doubtless there will be several subsidiary objects for which small grants in aid will be available, but it is quite evident to all who know what a far-reaching problem we have to deal with, that nine-tenths of the blind population will be unaffected and unassisted by these new proposals.

Speaking recently to a deputation from the National League of the Blind, which waited upon the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Major Astor said that it was the hope and intention of the Government to introduce legislation on the subject of the blind early next year, and that already a Bill was in course of preparation.

ASSOCIATION FOR BLIND, DEAF & CRIPPLED CHILDREN

THE After-Care Association for Blind, Deaf and Crippled Children has sent us its annual report. The object of this Association is to provide suitable wage-earning employment for physically defective children within the County of London, in order that as large a proportion as possible may ultimately become self-supporting and be prevented from becoming paupers. The report states:—

"The year 1918, marking as it did the close of the war, has been eventful to our Association by reason of the great change it has seen in the industrial market. Up to November heavy, unskilled work, with large wages, attracted able-bodied children, thus leaving the light-skilled trades to a large extent depleted of learners. This was a splendid opportunity for our physically handicapped children. . . . The experience of the last four years has proved that many of our children, when trained, can compete on equal terms in certain forms of skilled work with normal children. . . .

"Since the Armistice, and the consequent cessation of war work, unemployment has inevitably been widespread, but we are glad to be able to report that so far it has not appreciably affected our children, placed as they have been in skilled openings as learners or apprentices."

The report goes on to say that in the future they will undoubtedly have to face the competition of the partially-disabled soldier, though the recent decision of the London County Council uniformly to enforce the school attendance of physically defective children till the age of sixteen may do something to ease the situation during the next two years.

THE BLIND RINGER OF DUMFRIES.



IN James Wilson's interesting little book, "The Biography of the Blind," is an entertaining and what to twentieth century readers must appear a somewhat quaint description of the life of a blind bell-ringer who flourished in the middle of the eighteenth century. This was Blind Tom, the Bell-Ringer of Dumfries, and he is especially remarkable for

the possession of a degree of independence which in those days must have appeared well-nigh miraculous. When a mere child he lost his eyesight "by the natural small-pox," and had no recollection of ever having gazed on the external world.

"Like other boys," says his biographer, "he was very fond of visiting the venerable mid-steeple of Dumfries; and at the age of twelve was promoted to the office of chief ringer. Being of industrious habits, he, after much labour and perseverance, succeeded in gaining a pretty correct notion of the trade of turner: such as, without becoming a burden to anyone, enabled him to support himself; and honest Thomas's 'beetles' and 'spurtles' are still held in high repute by the good wives of both town and country. Although this business requires

a good number of tools, he had them so arranged that he could, without the least difficulty, take from the shelf the particular one he might be in want of, and even sharpened them when necessary. He excelled in the culinary art, cooking his victuals with the greatest nicety; and prided himself on the architectural knowledge he displayed in erecting a good 'ingle' or fire. In his domestic economy he neither had nor required an assistant. He fetched his own

water, made his own bed, cooked his own victuals, planted and raised his own potatoes, and, what is more strange still, cut his own peats, and was allowed by all to keep as clean a house as the most particular spinster in the town. Among a hundred rows of potatoes he easily found his way to his own; and, when turning peats, walked as fearfully among the hags of lochar moss as those who are in possession of all their faculties. At raising potatoes, or any other odd job, he was ever ready to bear a hand; and, when a neighbour got groggy on a Saturday night, it was by no means an uncommon spectacle to see Tom conducting him home to his wife and children.

"As a mechanic he was more than ordinarily ingenious, and made a lathe with his own hands, with which he was long in the habit



BLIND TOM ON THE STEEPLE.

of turning various articles, both of ornament and for general utility. He also constructed a portable 'break' for scutching lint, which he farther mounted on a nice little carriage, and in this way readily transported both himself and his carriage to any farmhouse where his services were required.

"After his appointment as chief ringer in the mid-steeple of Dumfries, Blind Tom's first visit every morning was to the bell-house; and he tripped upstairs with as much agility and confidence as if he possessed the clearest vision, generally inserting the key into the proper place at the first thrust. Never was bellman more punctual. In the coldest morning or the darkest night in winter, foul or fair, sunshine or storm, it was all one to Tom; and, though sluggards might excuse themselves on the score of the weather, his noisy clapper never failed to remind them that there was at least one man in the town up and at his duty. Indeed, such was his punctuality, that he was never known to commit a mistake but once, by ringing the bell at eleven instead of at ten at night. A friend calculated that he had rung the bell more than one hundred thousand times.

"The lapse of sixty years produces many changes on men and things; and it may be mentioned as a curious proof of the progressive rise of the wages of labour, that his salary, at first, was only thirty shillings yearly. It was then advanced to two pounds; from two to three, three to five, five to ten, and so on till at last he received, what to him was a little independency, the high salary of twenty pounds per annum.

"About fifteen years before his death, the mid-steeple was thoroughly repaired, and a splendid new cock substituted in the place of the former old and clumsy weather-vane; and this, again, was a great event to Blind Tom. The steeple was in a great measure his domicile; and he who had so much to do with the base could not be inattentive to the capital. Up, therefore, he would go to the top; and though repeatedly warned against the danger he would run, he actually accomplished the perilous enterprise, threw his arms round the bony bird, and bestowed on him a benediction to this effect: that he might long, long continue to indicate as truly the four winds as he himself indicated the time of day. A few years before his death, while some repairs were making on the vane of the steeple, Blind Tom mounted by a ladder

to the very summit, when, embracing the weather-cock, he proclaimed his achievement to the astonished and almost horror-struck spectators, by giving three hearty huzzas.

"Being much in the streets, he was often employed as a guide, and many laughable stories are told of the astonishment of persons whom he has conducted to the very extremities of the town, or even a good way into the country, on discovering that they had been led by a blind man. His local knowledge was very extensive, and his memory retentive to an uncommon degree. Once he had occasion to call at a shop, and, in crossing the threshold, it was remarked that he paused and lifted his foot very high. On this he was told that there was no step; but the old man's memory was quite faithful, and he immediately remarked: 'Just four and twenty years ago I was in this shop, and I am gye sure there was a step then.'

"Blind Tom was as well acquainted with persons as with places; if he heard anyone speak, and although he might not have met the individual for some time, yet he soon recognized him by his voice, when his usual remark was: 'Eh! mon, 'tis lang sin I've seen ye.' If he was asked the hour, such was his fine sense of feeling, that, on touching the hands of his watch, he could inform himself in a moment. Tom Wilson and another blind man in Dumfries, in order to beguile their leisure hours, contrived to invent a game somewhat similar to draughts, with which they often amused themselves.

"Blind Tom had a taste for music; for many years he was a member of a musical institution, where the innocent cheerfulness of his manners, and the hearty laugh he would raise when anything arose to please him, rendered his presence always acceptable.

"A melancholy event attached to the death of this honest and really ingenious man, on the 12th March, 1825; on which night, being in the belfry, he was struck with something like an apoplectic fit. For some time past a person had assisted him in ringing the bells on Sundays, and when this individual visited the steeple, at seven o'clock in the morning, he had to force the inner door of the belfry before the fate of the deceased could be ascertained. Though he still breathed, he was unable to speak, and

was immediately carried to his home in a state of utter insensibility.

"Thus died poor Thomas Wilson, the oldest bell-ringer, we believe, in Scotland; and who, for the long period of sixty-three years, summoned the lieges to labour and repose with all the regularity of the clock itself."

CARE OF THE BLIND.

MR. MILES PRIESTLEY, of Bradford, has been appointed an inspector of institutions for the welfare of the blind in England and Wales. The appointment has been made under the new scheme of the President of the Local Government Board, and these new duties will be taken up by Mr. Priestley in a few weeks' time.

In his long association with the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind, of which institution he is the manager and secretary, Mr. Priestley has proved himself a capable and devoted officer, always prompted by a desire to effect a real improvement in the status of the blind community.

During Mr. Priestley's thirty-two years at the Bradford Institution great progress has been made. The following figures indicate a notable achievement: In 1887 the number of blind employees was sixty-six; to-day there are 140. Thirty years ago wages and allowances were about £2,000; last year the amount was £6,960; sales have risen from £10,160 to £28,047.

Four pension societies have been founded, and technical training classes have been provided by the City Council Education Committee, which are recognised by the Board of Education and which earn Government grants. In 1887 the work was all carried on in the premises at North Parade; to-day there are branches of the work in Piccadilly, Frizinghall, Spring Gardens, and Oak Avenue.

oooo

DR. ADDISON, Minister of Health, has appointed Mr. Howard Mullins, general manager and superintendent of the Tottenham Court Road Workshops for the Blind, to fill the vacancy on the Ministry's Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, caused by the death of Mr. C. Hartley, of Liverpool.

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE.

THE last concert of the present season was given in the Armitage Hall on Monday, June 30th, at six o'clock, the following being the artistes:—Miss Marjorie Ford, soprano; Miss Freda Kirmsé, 'cellist; Mr. F. H. Etcheverria, baritone; Mr. W. Wolstenholme, organist; Miss Bessie Hawkins and Miss Margeurite Warner, accompanists.

Miss Ford has a very pleasing light-quality soprano voice which perhaps found its happiest expression in "The Wren" (by Liza Lehmann).

Miss Ford also appeared to advantage in conjunction with Mr. Etcheverria in "La ci darem la Mano," by Mozart, another number which had to be repeated.

Mr. Etcheverria's artistically dramatic temperament found adequate and varied expression in the "Prologue from Pagliacci," and in Easthope Martin's "Songs of Syria," both numbers being an exacting test for any vocalist. The former is now being stereotyped and the "Songs of Syria" will find their way into Braille at an early date.

Miss Kirmsé's 'cello solos were greatly enjoyed. We look forward to accepting Miss Kirmsé's kind offer to play at one of our next season's concerts. The song and 'cello accompanists were in able hands, respectively, of Miss Warner and Miss Hawkins. Mr. Wolstenholme's contributions were, as usual, thoroughly enjoyed. For the encore of "Capriccio," by Ireland, he gave the same composer's quite charming little piece "Villanella," which is now in Braille and finding a fully deserved place on recital programmes. The improvisation which concluded the programme was built upon five themes—(1) "Men of Harlech," (2) "The Farmer's Boy," (3) "Land of Hope and Glory," (4) "Let the Great big World keep turning," (5) the Mozart duet already referred to. In spite of the very contrastic material supplied, Mr. Wolstenholme found an appropriate place for all the themes, and the blending of them was exceptionally masterly.

In conclusion we tender our warmest thanks to Miss Minnie Williams who was responsible for arranging the programme.

H. C. WARRILOW.

COLOUR-BLINDNESS.



WHEN a beam of light is permitted to pass through a prism its rays are broken up into their component parts, and according to the wave lengths of these parts a luminous band or spectrum is formed, which appears to the normal eye to be composed of many colours, namely, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. The red end of the spectrum, corresponding to the refraction of the longest light-waves, forms one end, and the ultra-violet or shortest waves, the other end of the spectrum. Colour, therefore, as such, does not exist in Nature, but is a sensation excited in the eye by light-waves of different lengths. The inability to distinguish all of the colours in the spectrum constitutes colour-blindness.

"The first accurate description of this condition," says Mr. Posey, in his book "Hygiene of the Eye," "was given in 1774 by Dalton, an English chemist, who himself was colour-blind, and who published an accurate account of his own sensations. Among other peculiarities, he stated that he could note no difference between the colour of a green laurel leaf and that of a stick of red sealing-wax. To him the various tints of the rainbow were narrowed down to yellow and blue. Since Dalton's time numerous theories have been advanced to explain colour-blindness.

"Colour-blindness may be total or partial, congenital, or acquired. To those who are totally colour-blind, the world appears as though it were tinted with different shades of grey. Total colour-blindness is rare, but congenital partial defect is common, occurring in about four per cent. of all males. In women it is rare. According to a well-known authority, colour-blindness is hereditary. Partial colour-blindness may vary greatly, but the inability to differentiate between red and green is the most common.

"Acquired colour-blindness may attend any disease within the eye which causes retinal change or interferes with the proper conduction of impulses from the retina to the visual brain centres. The most common cause of acquired colour-blindness is disease of the optic nerve, due to the immoderate use of alcohol and tobacco. It is essential in all cases that a differentiation should be made between the acquired and the congenital variety, for the first is amenable to treatment, the latter incurable.

"Colour-blindness is of great significance, for it disqualifies for all occupations in which a proper discrimination between colours is an essential. This includes many railroad employees, all naval and marine officers, pilots, and certain classes of seamen, and all occupations in the arts which require mixing pigments or matching colours. As a rule, even those who are totally red-green blind are unaware of the existence of this defect in their vision, and it is often only after a most searching test that the lack in colour sense can be demonstrated. In 1875 Holmgren, a Swedish savant, perfected a method by means of which deficiencies in the colour-sense might be detected. This test, which is still in common use, determines the ability of a person to match various colours, a series of coloured yarns being used for this purpose. The set of worsteds employed for this purpose consist of three chief test colours, *i.e.*, 1, a pale green, a light pink, and a bright red; 2, a series of 'match colours' of lighter tints and hues, which the colour-blind are apt to confuse with the test colours. The person under examination is given one of the chief colours, and told to pick out from the mass of worsteds spread out before him all colours which match it. The man with normal colour-sense will have no difficulty in discriminating, but the colour-blind person will confuse red with greens, and will add confusion colours of various tints, such as drabs, greys, browns, etc.

The wool test is usually supplemented by a lantern test, the lantern used for this purpose being constructed in such a manner that a disc upon which are mounted the various colours used in railroads and the marine, *i.e.*, white, red, green, and blue, may be superimposed over the light of the lantern in rapid succession. As it has been found that the colour-blind are frequently able to differentiate between colours by their different intensities of brightness, the apparatus is so arranged that a series of ground and smoked glasses may be used to diminish the brilliancy of the various test colours. The lantern is placed at twenty feet from the observer, in a darkened room, and the observer required to recognize and name colours of a size which subtend a visual angle of one minute at that distance.

"Those with colour-blindness acquired from the abuse of alcohol and tobacco, as well as from other causes, may at times recognize colours correctly, provided the object upon which the colour is exposed is sufficiently large, but are never able to meet the requirements of the lantern test. . ."

"THE BLIND."

(By Harry Best, Ph.D. Published by the Macmillan Co., Fifth Avenue, New York. Price, four dollars.)

THIS book treats on the subject of blindness in an extraordinarily comprehensive way. There is not only a great deal of useful statistical information in it, but the author has been at infinite pains to collect a vast amount of data regarding the subject, which implies many years of research work. As well as a careful analysis of the question of the blind, speaking communally, the possibilities of preventing blindness in the future, as much as is humanly possible, are dealt with exhaustively.

To the social worker in this field, to all who have the interests of the blind at heart, and particularly to those working in institutions and hospitals, the book will prove invaluable.

OOOO

It will be found necessary to revise the postage rates of many of our Braille publications. Starting with January, the revised rate of subscription for the *Braille Mail* will be: Inland, 6s. 6d. per annum; abroad, 8s. 8d. Notice concerning the other Braille magazines will be made in the October issue.

PILLOW-LACE MAKING.

SUGGESTIONS have been made from various sources that pillow-lace making would be a remunerative occupation for the blind. It was decided, therefore, by the National Institute for the Blind that the matter should be investigated, and we append report concerning the same:—

"Arrangements were made to get in touch with an expert lace-maker. Two lessons were taken, and a large quantity of lace inspected. Some very elaborate patterns, comprised of from three or four to fifty different stitches, were closely examined. Specimens of Torchon, Honiton, Cluny, Brussels and Valenciennes formed most of the collection, and a practical lesson in Torchon lace was given by the expert.

"The conclusion arrived at is, that as a home industry pillow-lace may not prove practicable or remunerative.

Impracticable, because :

1. It is difficult.
2. Only very simple repeating patterns could be followed.
3. The bobbins used are apt to get misplaced and entangled, and owing to their constant change of position, numbering or marking them may not be sufficiently helpful.
4. Home conditions are usually unfavourable from the blind worker's point of view.

Unremunerative, because :

1. There would be little or no demand for very simple or narrow lace.
2. Elaborate or intricate patterns would take a considerable time to make, even if the worker could memorise or follow Braille instructions.
3. Constantly feeling the pins and placing fresh pins in position for working may cause the lace to get soiled and thus depreciate its value.

If, however, this work could be taught to a number of particularly intelligent blind women under constant expert sighted supervision, there may be a possible opening for some.

A REMARKABLE EDITOR.



THROUGH life, it has been my fortune to have met many "Knights of the Pen"—Editors that made impressions upon the public mind in their day, and wielded considerable power in national crises from their sanctums. There is this about Editors: their modesty. Erudite they must be, and that in itself is sufficient explanation of their personal disinclination to notoriety. By their very position amongst the community they have a right to pre-eminence among their fellow-citizens; but they never seek it.

An Editor is never at rest. At a dinner, presided over by the late Mr. Albert Groser, F.J.I., Editor of the *Western Morning News*, a powerful West-country paper that Mr. Groser did so much to build up, he said: "An editor's work is never done; his anxieties after thirty years are as many, and more, than ever. It is hard to build a newspaper and maintain it; it is ease itself to let it die."

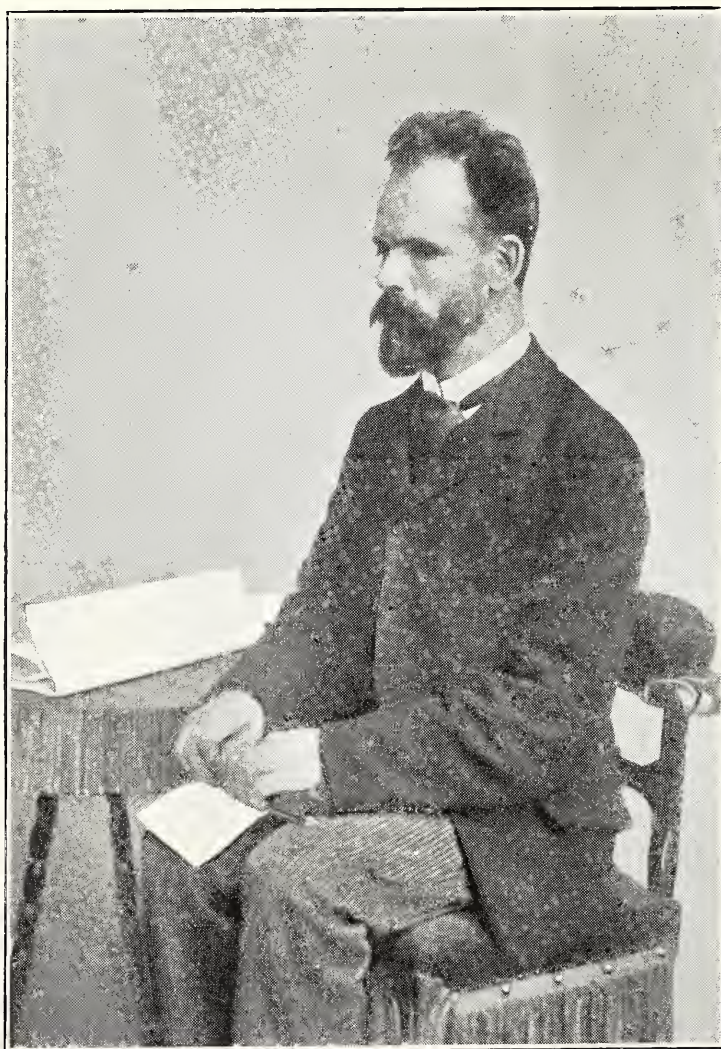
All this, then, to show how the Editor's chair is no sinecure even for a highly-endowed man with all his faculties. What, then, of a man who has acted as Editor for years, although blind! that blind Editor being Mr. John Whall, of the *Middlesex Chronicle*.

Mr. John Whall's history is indeed interesting. His father was a veteran of the Royal Scots, and served in the Crimean Campaign of 1854-6, and in the Chinese Expedition of 1860. John was born in Carlisle Fort, Queenstown Harbour, County Cork, on March 6th, 1853, his mother being Irish. Born with the precious possession of sight, he, however, lost it when a child by frequent attacks of ophthalmia contracted in Malta and Hong-Kong, his sight going entirely at the age of thirteen. Young Whall

received his preliminary education in military schools, completing it at the London Society School for the Blind, St. John's Wood, in 1872, where he was taught that great art in which the blind seem to excel—music. In September of that year John received his first appointment at St. Stephen's Church, Hounslow; and in 1878, he was organist of St. Dunstan's—immortal name!—the Parish Church of delectable Cranford, and had a good connection of music teaching in this part of the county.

From Music he proceeded to the sister art of Literature, "dabbling," as he expresses it, "in journalism." And a good "dabbler" he has proved! In 1883, he began

with the *Middlesex and Bucks Advertiser*, the *Middlesex and Surrey Express*, and the *Middlesex Independent*, being appointed in 1891 as editor of the *Middlesex*



MR. JOHN WHALL, EDITOR "MIDDLESEX CHRONICLE."

Chronicle. Mr. Whall, it is most interesting to learn, has used the Braille system of reading and writing for the blind for his work.

As a journalist, who has resided in the famous old town of Hounslow since 1867, Mr. Whall could give many a strange experience. But what every lad and lass as well as senior loves to remember is his glorious tenacity and literary accomplishments as "the guide, philosopher, and friend" for years of thousands who have read but never have met him.

Highly respected in the land of "The Diehards," Mr. Whall, with consummate skill, has carried on his duties for many years, and made his paper a household word for its singular fairness to all parties, creeds, 'isms, and 'ologies. His leaders are delightful examples of advice and criticism without rancour or that abuse which some "newer" papers pass for argument.

Remarkable, too, is the way Mr. Whall gets about. I remember being at a meeting when, without any knowledge of him, I saw him reporting the speakers, and was astounded later to learn that he was bereft of man's greatest possession. Mr. Whall finishing his task, set off towards his home, without any accompaniment that I saw, and with that composure of the blind one has always envied in an irritating and incongruous world; after which, a faultless report of the proceedings would appear in the *Middlesex Chronicle*, reported by a blind man with his own system of shorthand!

Truly marvellous? Yes. But then the modern citizens of the Kingdom of the Blind are marvellous. They teach their sighted fellow-citizens as no educator ever has, of the triumph of their unconquerable spirit wrestling with Fate and never surrendering. Indeed was Tennyson right when he wrote:

"Man can half control his doom."

He can. Here is the proof—and *blind!*

W. F. K. REAN.

OOOO

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

WOLVERHAMPTON SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND.

SATISFACTORY progress and increase of work during the year are reported by the committee of this institution. The total number of workpeople employed is at present twenty-six. The wages paid during the year at Trade Union rates (including £80 1s. 5d. trade war bonus) amounted to £1,089 14s. This amount was supplemented by £82 15s. special war bonus, £28 10s. children allowance, £12 5s. 1d. sick pay, and £441 19s. 10d. from the Wages Augmentation Fund.

As explained in last year's Report, the Wages Augmentation Fund was inaugurated in July, 1917, in conjunction with the Birmingham and Walsall Institutions. The object of the fund is to provide money for the weekly payment to blind workpeople of a sum in addition to the wages which they earn at Trade Union rates. The amount paid to each worker is based on a sliding scale in accordance with his or her wage earning capacity.

The Wolverhampton Society is represented on the local Sub-Advisory Committee for the Midlands by two members. The special duty of this Committee is to advise the Central Body on all matters of local importance, and also to be a means of communication between the Local Government Board and the individual blind.

OOOO

BLIND MAN'S INVENTION.

ELEVEN years ago Mr. R. D. Harris, of Seven Sisters, was blinded in a shot firing accident. Since then he has directed his attention to inventing an apparatus for withdrawing the detonator in case of misfire where electrical blasting is used, and substituting another without risk to person and with much saving of time.

On July 2, at the Tynant Quarries of Mr. T. Edwards, Taff's Well, a demonstration was given before Mr. J. Dyer Lewis, H.M.I.S., Professor Knox, Treforest School of Mines, Messrs. Llewellyn Evans and T. J. Major, Cardiff, and Mr. J. Drummond Paton, Manchester. The experiment was conducted under severe conditions, and proved successful. The explosive was placed in a hole three feet deep with five feet of stemming.

THE BLIND CHILD AND ITS DEVELOPMENT.

Lecture II.



MISS KATE FOLEY, in the second of her "Five Lectures on Blindness," deals with the education of the blind child. As a foreword to her lecture she quotes the words of Dr. F. Park Lewis, an eminent American oculist, who has devoted much time and thought to the needs of the blind. He says:—"It is the mind and the spirit which control, and when these are great, they dominate and rise superior to mere physical deficiencies. The inspiration of great ideals must be held out to the blind, even more than to the seeing, from the very beginning. It is not enough that the blind man or woman shall have physical strength, but his training must be so well balanced as to give him poise as well as vigour. It does not suffice that the blind man shall be as well educated as his fellow who sees. Handicapped by the loss of the most important of his special senses, he must supplement this deficiency by a better training of his mind and body. . . He should be independent and proudly unwilling, except when absolutely necessary, to accept that for which he cannot, in some way, return an equivalent. He must be taught to reason with clearness and logical precision, for he must succeed by the aid of his mentality and character, rather than by his manual exertions. These facts are emphasized here, because if such qualities are to be secured, the training which produces them should begin in the cradle."

Miss Foley declares that she would like to have a copy of these words framed and placed on the desk of every teacher of blind children, and to request these teachers to read them at least once every day. "Unfortunately," she goes on to say, "the parents of blind children rarely understand the importance of this early training. They are often too absorbed in their own sorrow

at having a child thus afflicted, too sure that loss of eyesight means loss of mental vigour, to realise that their own attitude, their own self-pity, may prove a greater handicap to the child than blindness itself. If a child lives in a house where he is waited upon, and made to feel that mere existence and the ability to eat and sleep are all that may reasonably be expected of him, and that he must depend upon his family for everything, he will grow up helpless, selfish and awkward, and no amount of later training will entirely counteract the pernicious effect produced in these early formative years. When placed in school with other children, he will be very sensitive to correction, and may become morbid and unhappy, thus giving a wrong impression of the blind in general. If, on the other hand, the child is taught to be self-helpful, permitted to join in the work and play of other children, made to feel that, with greater effort, he may do just what they do, he will soon become cheerfully alert and hopefully alive to all the possibilities of his peculiar position. It is true that natural disposition has much to do with one's outlook on life, but cheerfulness and a certain form of stoicism may be cultivated, and to the blind child these qualities are absolutely essential if he is to attain any measure of success in later life. . . You may never have thought of it, but the blind child has no model, no pattern. It must acquire everything. It learns nothing by imitation. The normal child copies the gestures and mannerisms of its parents. The blind child must be taught to smile, to shake hands—the thousand and one details of daily living so naturally acquired under ordinary conditions. Long before it has reached school age, the blind child should be permitted to romp with other children, and to join in all harmless sports, thus acquiring that freedom of movement and fearless bearing so necessary if he is to cope successfully with the difficulties awaiting him. His toys should

be chosen to instruct as well as to amuse, and in this way he should be made familiar with the different forms, the square, the circle, the oblong, the triangle, and the pyramid. He should be trained to recognize the difference between smooth and rough, soft and hard, light and heavy, thick and thin. He should be given plasticine or clay with which to model, and be urged to reproduce his toys, thus assisting in the muscular development and intelligent use of his fingers. As soon as possible the process of dressing should be taught. The child may learn this more readily if a doll is used as a model, and he is required to put on its clothes each morning, and remove them just before his own bedtime. . . .

"The necessity of sending the child to school early cannot be too strongly emphasized, and education of blind children should be made compulsory, just as in the case of sighted children. Those in charge of the children should be impressed with the responsibility of the task they have undertaken, and should do their utmost to

assist in the work of fitting the little ones for the preliminary skirmish in the battle of life. All children should have constant supervision during the formative period, but more especially does the blind child need watchful guidance in his work and at his play. Little habits must be broken, awkward movements discouraged, self-confidence fostered, and every effort made to develop the child along sane and normal lines, so that in later life he may have the poise and bearing so often lacking in those who are blind from early childhood. . . . Dr. Illingworth gives the following qualifications for a teacher of the blind: 'a sound education, self-control in a high degree, a boundless enthusiasm, a determination to succeed, should be kind and sympathetic, and at the same time firm, and should be true to his word.' These are qualifications which should be possessed alike by the blind teacher and the sighted teacher, and only those so qualified should be entrusted with the divine privilege of bringing light to the minds of these helpless little ones."

PRESENTATION TO MR. MULLINS.



AN entertainment was given on the evening of Thursday, June 26th, at the Artists' Rifles' Drill Hall, Duke's Road, St. Pancras, by the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, to their blind workers and staff. The proceedings were of the most happy description, and a feeling of unity was characteristic of the whole assembly.

The entertainment was made the occasion of the celebration of the completion of twenty-five years' faithful and untiring service on the part of Mr. Howard Mullins, the Association's Secretary and Manager, who was the recipient of several presentations and many hearty congratulations, though it is probable that the pleasure thus afforded him was surpassed by the warm and sincere expressions of affectionate regard on the part of those blind men and women among whom he has laboured so strenuously, and whose condition he has done so much to improve.

Mr. Ormond Blyth, Chairman of the Association, presented him, on behalf of the Council, with a handsome silver bowl, and spoke in high terms of his splendid achievements.

This was followed by the presentation of a silver inkstand on behalf of the blind workers in the several industrial departments, this ceremony being performed by Mr. Sangwine, one of the workers themselves, who, in a very able speech, paid a feeling tribute to the enterprise of Mr. Mullins, to which was due the steadily-increasing prosperity of the Association.

Next came the gift of a gold cigarette-case, on behalf of the blind members of the staff, by Mr. Mowbray, who laid particular stress on the deep debt of gratitude which every blind worker (staff included) owed to the Association and to Mr. Mullins personally.

Then the presentation, by Mr. Davies, of a tobacco-pouch, from four sighted brush-finishers, who, though excluded from participation in the presentation of the silver

inkstand, by reason of its inscription, as coming from his "blind friends," were loyally desirous of testifying to their own sense of esteem and appreciation.

In his response, and not without some emotion, which all his efforts could not wholly conceal, Mr. Mullins spoke of his pleasure and gratification at so cordial a recognition of his work, though modestly disclaiming any special reason for such recognition, and left no doubt in the minds of his hearers as to the value he should always place upon the gifts he had just received, because of the kindly feeling and goodwill of which they were the indisputable tokens. He further announced that the Council had commemorated the event by inaugurating a new fund by the gift of a thousand pounds to meet the case of those who lost their sight in adult life, and for whom little provision has hitherto been made, on condition that it should be called the "Howard Mullins Fund."

This announcement called forth what was perhaps the greatest applause of the evening, for, apart from the crying need for such a fund, it was felt that this was undoubtedly the best tribute to the splendid service which Mr. Mullins has rendered to the cause of the blind. Offers of help were not slow in coming, for, within a few minutes, came one of twenty-five guineas from Mr. Hyde, and another for the same amount from Mr. Taylor. This was followed by a further twenty-five guineas from Mr. Ormond Blyth, five guineas from Mr. Mullins, and three guineas from one of the blind workers of the Association. These subscriptions will, it is hoped, be the forerunners of many others, so that the good work thus begun may never be hampered by the lack of funds.

Speeches were made by Dr. Rosedale, of the London Association for the Blind, Mr. Wagg, of the Barclay Workshops for the Blind (who also presented Mr. Mullins with a silver match-box as a personal token of his regard), Mr. Hale, of the National Institute for the Blind, and Mr. Hyde. Mr. Blyth (as Chairman) did much to render the evening the success it proved, and Mr. le Sieur (to whom and his lady helpers a tribute of thanks was rendered for the arrangements and decoration of the hall), assured all present that the work had been a "labour of love."

Sir Arthur Pearson and many others sent letters of regret at their unavoidable

absence, but expressed their hearty approval of the celebration and personal congratulations to Mr. Mullins.

The concert was a great success, the chief favourites perhaps being Mr. Wilson James and Miss Ruby Wilson, and Mr. Joseph Bull, the celebrated banjoist. Other artistes were Miss Nellie Walker, Mr. Bernard Tomkins, Mr. Walker Montague, and Miss Lena Capping. Three rousing cheers were given, and "He's a Jolly Good Fellow" sung in honour of Mr. Mullins, the usual votes of thanks were accorded, and the proceedings came to an end with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem.

Refreshments were distributed during the evening, and a souvenir programme was given to everyone present.

OFFICERS' PENSIONS.

THE Minister of Pensions recently announced in the House of Commons that it had been decided by the Government to increase the rate of pensions to the widows of officers and men killed in previous wars and the rate of disablement pensions to all ranks. The increased rates will apply only to men already pensioned for wounds or injuries sustained in action or in the performance of military duty in former wars, or for disease due wholly and directly to war service. The increased rates, to which will be added the war bonus of 20 per cent. payable on pensions for the present war, will date from April 1st last. Steps are being taken to give effect to these decisions, but the process of investigation must take a little time. In the case of officers, nurses, and naval warrant officers, and their relatives, it is anticipated that most cases can be traced through the records of the Admiralty and War Office, but it is open to any pensioner, officer or nurse who has a claim to increase under these conditions to apply to the Ministry of Pensions (Officers' Awards Branch), New North Street, London, W.C. Army warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men's cases cannot similarly be identified from records at Headquarters, and any men who therefore consider that they are entitled to the concessions should apply to the Ministry of Pensions.

CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

THE efforts of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in the direction of the prevention of blindness and conservation of eyesight are divisible into six main lines:—

1. A campaign against preventable eye diseases, in particular Ophthalmia Neonatorum—the commonest cause of infantile blindness—in support of which Government action has already been taken. The loss of sight from this cause is preventable in almost 100 per cent., if the right treatment is applied at the right time.

2. A campaign against preventable eye accident and eye strain, particularly amongst adults engaged in industrial and commercial pursuits. Just a little safeguard against flying bits of material, intense heat or light or sudden flashes, working in poor light at fine processes, etc., often means the saving of deterioration of sight, or even the saving of sight itself. The matter of proper lighting also applies to school children.

3. The inauguration of "sight-saving classes" in the public schools, for children who have defective eyesight. Such simple methods as the use of the regular school-books published in "mammoth type," the use of dissected (picture puzzle) maps, adjustable desks, etc., are sometimes all that are needed to improve scholastic standing and general condition, to say nothing of conserving, if not improving, the vision.

4. Advice and follow-up work, when treatment, operation, special glasses, etc., can be of benefit in saving or improving vision.

5. A campaign for publicity on this whole question which shall arouse the public to the need of this work, the danger of neglecting it, and the means of accomplishing the desired results.

6. The preparation of such data for suggestions in future legislation as shall tend towards the elimination of the largest possible amount of blindness, or eye disability, which can by any means be averted.

OOOO

THE subscription rate for *The Beacon* for Great Britain and the Colonies is 3s. per annum, post free; for foreign countries, 4s. 2d. Single copies can be bought for 3d., or 4d. post free.

BUREAU OF CHILD HYGIENE

IN the June *News Letter*, published by the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness in New York, important progress was reported in the proposed establishment in South Carolina of a Bureau of Child Hygiene under the State Board of Health. Ten thousand dollars for the maintenance of its work was granted. In the outline of proposed activities of this bureau its functions are formally announced as follows:—

1. Registration of births.
2. Prenatal care of children.
3. Control of midwives:
 - (a) Registration;
 - (b) Education and supervision;
 - (c) Licensing.
4. Use of drops in every new-born baby's eyes.
5. Establishment of baby centres.
6. Medical inspection of school children.
7. Establishment of clinics for correction of physical defects.

"The activities of the bureau are to be promoted by county and community nurses. The work of the county nurse must of necessity be varied and complex. It will begin with the school as a point of contact. The nurse will correct sanitary conditions of school buildings; she will assist in medical inspection of school children; she will direct proper teaching of health principles; from the school she will enter the home; she will establish prenatal and infant centres, where classes of mothers will be organized; she will have under her care, as nearly as possible, all bottle-fed babies; she will supervise midwives; she will establish clinics for the correction of physical defects in children; the control of tuberculosis and other communicable diseases will be no small part of her duties."

There are approximately 1,200 adult blind in South Carolina. The newly established Bureau of Hygiene has a tremendous opportunity for constructive social work, and from present indications will prove a most valuable asset to the social forces of the State.

OOOO

EXTRACT from lecture by N.C.O.: "Your rifle is your best friend, take every care of it; treat it as you would your wife, rub it all over with an oily rag every day."

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Decadence (Henry Sidgwick Memorial Lecture, 1908)
Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour
- Old Country Life, 4 vols.....*S. Baring-Gould*
- Meaning of the War: Life and Matter in Conflict
H. Bergson
- Lectures on English Comic Writers, 8 vols.
William Hazlitt
- Men, Women and War, 2 vols.*W. Irwin*
- By Desert Ways to Baghdad, 4 vols. "*Louisa Jebb*"
- Religious Reality (a Book for Men), 3 vols.
A. E. J. Rawlinson
- Tommy Smith's Other Animals, 2 vols. ...*E. Selous*
- War and Democracy, 6 vols.
R. W. Seton-Watson and Others
- Flaming Sword in Serbia and elsewhere, 5 vols.
Mrs. St. Clair Stobart
- This Mystical Life of Ours, 2 vols.....*R. W. Trine*
- Maya and other Lectures*Vivekananda*
- Introduction to the History of the Church of England
from the earliest times to the present day, 7 vols.
H. O. Wakeman

FICTION

- Star-chamber, 7 vols.*W. Harrison Ainsworth*
- Lalage's Lovers, 3 vols.*G. A. Birmingham*
- King's Token, 4 vols.....*Elsie Carrier*
- In the Lean Years, 5 vols.....*F. Curtis*
- Ivory Snuff Box, 3 vols.*Arnold Fredericks*
- Mudlarks*C. Garstin*
- Honor Bright, 3 vols.*H. E. Inman*
- Cock-house at Felsgarth, 5 vols. *Talbot Baines Reed*
- Man with the Club-foot, 3 vols.....*D. Valentine*

MOON

- Human Touch.....*J. R. Miller*
- Stand By, 2 vols....."*Taffrail*"
- Sea Patrols, 2 vols.*P. Vaux*

FOREIGN

- Fioretti(*Anon.*)
- Notre France, 2 vols.(*Anon.*)
- Oraison funèbre de Marie Therese d'Autriche, 2 vols.
J. B. Bossuet
- Oraison funèbre d'Henriette de France *J. B. Bossuet*
- Oraison funèbre d'Henriette d'Angleterre
J. B. Bossuet
- Un Remous, 2 vols.....*M. Corday*
- Curé de Cucugnan*A. Daudet*
- Le petit soldat: conte flamand*C. Deulin*
- Trois Mousquetaires, 28 vols.....*A. Dumas*
- Péréat Rochus*A. Fogazzaro*
- Sept Femmes de la Barbe-Bleue.....*Anatole France*
- Fanchon*Anatole France*
- Dominique, 7 vols.....*E. Fromentin*
- Nouvelles*L. Hearn*
- Quatre-vingt-treize, 3 vols.....*V. Hugo*

- Frères de Mowgli, 2 vols.*R. Kipling*
- L'affaire de la rue de l'Ourcine.....*E. Labiche*
- Bicard dit le Bouif, 4 vols.....*La Fouchardière*
- La Fontaine chez les voleurs*J. Lemaitre*
- Dulcinée*J. Lemaitre*
- La petite histoire.....*G. Lenôtre*
- Ecole des Femmes, 3 vols.*J. P. de Molière*
- Croisilles*A. de Musset*
- Frédéric et Bernerette, 2 vols.....*A. de Musset*
- Les deux Maitresses, 2 vols.*A. de Musset*
- Charles Blanchard (Extraits).....*C. L. Philippe*
- Histoires extraordinaires, 5 vols.*E. A. Poë*
- Jours Heureux, 2 vols.....*H. de Regnier*
- Vie de Beethoven, 3 vols.*R. Rolland*
- Jacques Passinkoff.....*I. Turgenev*
- Vie et la mort du Capitaine Renaud, 4 vols.
A. de Vigny

MUSIC

PIANO—

- The Lily (Mazurka de Concert)*W. Lord*
- Three Dances*E. Markham Lee*
1. Maid of Athens 3. Gnome Dance
2. Amaryllys
- Overture, "Masaniello"*Auber*
- Associated Board, 1919, School Exams., Lower
Division, List A:
- Allegro (Finale) from Sonata in C.....*Mozart*
- Swing Song*R. H. Walthew*
- Elementary Division, List B:
- Allegro (1st movement), from Sonatina in C,
Op. 251, No. 1*C. Reinecke*
- Album Leaf, in F*H. Farjeon*
- Elementary Division, List C:
- *Prelude and Andante, in A*H. Bertini*
- Primary Division, List A:
- Rondo, in C*A. Diabelli*
- Evening Song*F. Swinstead*
- Primary Division, List B:
- Allegro Animato, in F.....*F. Le Couppey*

STUDIES—

- Associated Board, 1919, School Exams., Lower
Division, List A:
- Study in A, Op. 125, No. 9*S. Heller*
- Lower Division, List C:
- Study in G, Op. 20, No. 18.....*F. Le Couppey*
- Elementary Division, List B:
- Study in A, Op. 17, No. 7*F. Le Couppey*
- Elementary Division, List C:
- Study in C, Op. 139, No. 37.....*C. Czerny*
- Primary Division, List A:
- Study in D, Op. 137, No. 5.....*H. Bertini*
- Primary Division, List B:
- Study in G, Op. 599, No. 41.....*C. Czerny*

SONGS—

- Sigh No More.....*W. A. Aikin*
- The Fairy Pipers.....*A. H. Brewer*
- Vi ravviso, o luoghi ameni, "Gentle Vision of Scenes
Beloved" (La Sonnambula).....*V. Bellini*
- A Cottage in God's Garden*C. Jacobs-Bond*
- I think of you.....*Silberman, Grock, and Thurban*

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—No. 33.

SEPTEMBER, 1919.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.



AN interesting theory with respect to the education of the blind has been put forward by Mr. Edward Allen, Secretary of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind. In speaking of the important factor of environment, he says:—"It has long been a theory of mine that visual beauty can exert a shaping effect upon the blind, a hygienic effect that is tremendously worth while. Never mind attempting to explain why this is so, but let us rather accept the statement as of fact."

Now, to the casual reader this theory will probably appear on the face of it untrue, if not absolutely ludicrous; but I think that on mature reflection it will be seen that a world of truth lies in the utterance. Sir Arthur Pearson has pointed out that it is essential that the blind man's companion should possess the power of being able to describe his surroundings adequately and in detail. It is, therefore, meet that these surroundings should present a pleasing picture both to the seeing man and through him to the inward vision of his blind companion.

Mr. Allen tells us of the architectural beauty of the Institution for the Blind at Philadelphia, alterations and improvements having been effected in the year 1899. With the architectural improvements the efficiency of the school increased in an incredibly short space of time. "Its influence," says Mr. Allen, "had become dynamic. It had

gone out into the suburbs, provided for a maximum of sunshine and fresh air, surrounded itself with ample grounds, an athletic field, trees, gardens. In short, everything about it was so attractive that it soon became a great resort of visitors, and even the neighbourhood that had at first resented the encroachment of an institution came to rejoice in its presence. And this was immediately reflected in the pupils' bearing and in an increased recognition of their opportunities." There can be no doubt of this fact; it is one that is recognized here as well as in America, and our own "Sunshine House" and "Cedars" bear testimony to the invigorating influence of beautiful surroundings, which so reacts on the minds of the seeing members of the little community that their sightless friends of necessity become imbued with its spirit. Light and colour and brightness have such an enormous tonic value that they must invariably lead to the greatest of human possessions, "a healthy mind in a healthy body," and healthy and cheerful-minded persons are those whose companionship is above all desirable for those who sit in darkness.

The feeling for beauty should be cultivated in the very young. It is said that "as is the teacher so is the school," and it requires pleasing surroundings to keep the teachers fresh and cheerful that they may influence their pupils in like manner.

Beauty of surroundings, the faculty of expression and that of imagination are therefore the three essentials for the teacher of the blind. And shall we say that the greatest of these three is Imagination? I think so. For the painter of mind pictures

must needs be he who in "the primrose by the river's brim" can see something more than "just a primrose"—one who can

"Clothe the waste with dreams of grain,
And on midnight's sky of rain
Paint a golden morrow."

BARCLAY INSTITUTIONS FOR THE BLIND.

THE annual report of the Barclay Home and School for Blind and Partially Blind Girls at Brighton indicates general progress in all departments, including the two workshops. There are eighty-three inmates in the Home, of whom forty-eight are children under sixteen years of age, and two are resident blind workers. The Committee report that the sales of woven goods, knitted coats, socks, etc., hand knitting and baskets, realised the sum of £2,677 19s. 3d. The Hon. Mrs. Campion, Chairman of the Home since its foundation by her in 1893, has now resigned, and her place is being taken by Mr. Godfrey Mowatt.

The Barclay Home comprises four departments:—

The Elementary School for girls between the ages of five and sixteen.

The Technical School for girls over sixteen.

Workshops for trained girls transferred from the Technical School.

An Annexe for untrained Blind Women.

The subjects taught include Braille reading and writing, music, typewriting, Swedish Drill and physical exercises, and there is special instruction for myopes and the partially sighted. The industries taught include weaving, basket making, machine and hand knitting, chair caning and machine sewing.

As reported in the July issue of the *Beacon*, the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women in London has removed to new quarters at 21, Crawford Street, W., and now possesses a good showroom with an attractive shop window. At the Workshop there are eighteen blind women—sixteen weavers, one seamstress and one knitter. The blind workers' wages have again been raised during the year, and the Committee have been able to pay £180 in excess of the amount paid last year.

THE "ESPERANTA LIGILO."

A WORLD-WIDE LINK FOR THE BLIND.

THE National Institute for the Blind has earned the heartfelt gratitude of hundreds of blind Esperantists throughout the world by making an annual grant of a sum, not to exceed £250, in support of the *Esperanta Ligilo*, a Braille monthly magazine, entirely in Esperanto, edited and published by Mr. Harald Thilander, at Stockholm. The great value of such a universal magazine to all who are interested in efforts to reduce the inconvenience of blindness is apparent when we think of the many countries from which ideas or inventions of the utmost importance have been derived.

Braille and piano-tuning originated in France; massage in Japan; boot-repairing in Denmark; while suggestions for after-care and industrial employment generally may perhaps be furnished by America, and—yes—even by Germany.

Besides translations from standard literature, the *Ligilo* contains useful notes by its readers, who are free to correspond among themselves, as their addresses are from time to time printed in Braille.

In 1916 war-time difficulties forced Mr. Thilander to discontinue the magazine, but as soon as the armistice was signed he began to collect money for its re-establishment. He obtained enough to provide four "occasional" numbers for this year, which are sent free to all who desire to receive a copy. But the future was anything but encouraging, owing to the increased cost of production, until, like a fairy godmother, the National Institute relieved him from further financial anxiety.

Mr. Thilander now proposes to issue the *Ligilo* monthly from January, 1920, and hopes to be able to send free copies to readers who cannot well afford the small subscription to be charged. All British readers, or persons who wish to become readers but have not yet learnt Esperanto, are asked to communicate with me after the middle of September, while those living abroad should write direct to Mr. Thilander, 12, Majorsgatan, Stockholm, Sweden.

W. PERCY MERRICK,

Woodleigh, Shepperton.

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND.



THE Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind was set up in December, 1917, to advise the Local Government Board on matters relating to the care and supervision of the Blind in England and Wales. The first duty laid upon the Committee was to advise on the nature of the provision requiring to be made for the betterment of the condition of the blind, and to consider how best a portion of the expenditure involved could be met by local contributions, that is, otherwise than by direct assistance from national funds. The Committee advised accordingly, and we have now received a copy of their first annual report, in which are set out in general terms the provisions which they considered necessary in respect to the education, training, employment and maintenance of the blind. These proposals are substantially the same as those adopted by the Scottish Advisory Committee, with which they have worked in the closest co-operation.

One of the first subjects to which the Committee devoted their attention was the introduction of a system of registration, whereby the public might be kept informed of the institutions and organisations which are co-operating in the systematic care of the blind. To this end they advised that all known agencies for the blind should be invited to submit applications for registration to the Local Government Board, enclosing copies of their last annual report, together with a statement of the object of their activities. Each application was carefully discussed on its merits, and acting on the Committee's advice, the Local Government Board have issued to the public a list of approved institutions, societies and agencies for the blind. This list will be subject to annual revision.

The Committee further recommended that a comprehensive register of the blind should be compiled. A case form was drawn up,

and copies were furnished to those bodies whose activities brought them in touch with the blind. The total number of cases registered is 25,840, which includes persons employed, unemployed, under training, not trained and unemployable. For the purpose of dealing with the figures, the register was arbitrarily closed on the 1st January, 1919. Forms continue to be furnished from day to day, and it is anticipated that some 3,000 to 4,000 further cases will be reported, so that the total should come to some 30,000 in all. Those reported as "unemployable" include persons of fifty years and upwards who had received no training, and persons of sixty years and upwards who had been trained but were out of employment. The unemployable group (11,895) is the largest, being forty-six per cent. of the total number of blind enumerated. As regards the employed group, it is of interest to state that in the several workshops there are employed 1,127 men and 458 women, while there are under training 396 men and 311 women. The census returns of 1911 showed a total of "occupied" blind persons of 5,526, as compared with the total of 6,391 of this report. While the present returns show an increase in the number of persons engaged in industrial occupations, there is a decrease in the number of those following non-industrial occupations, but this is probably to be accounted for by the fact that the latter class are more likely to be of independent means and have not thought it necessary to furnish the Local Government Board with particulars. Some new occupations for the blind are now reported as compared with the census returns, notably massage, boot-repairing and poultry-farming.

As regards the distribution of blind persons according to physical or mental defects, the largest percentage of defectives is naturally to be found in the "unemployable" group. The total number of defectives (mental, physical and deaf-blind) is 5,177. The statistics further show that there are 362 blind

children who were apparently not at school, and that of these 40.6 per cent. were defective.

Investigation of the age periods at which blindness takes place revealed the fact that the largest percentage was to be found in the first year, and a further analysis of this group showed that 20.6 per cent. became blind within six months of birth. Cases of accident blindness form 12.3 per cent. of the total number of cases.

The report next deals with the workshops for the blind. Very careful consideration was given to the subject of augmentation of wages. The Committee considered that the variety of systems of augmentation in force in the several workshops was not acceptable; they felt that it was essential that a uniform system should be in operation throughout the country. What that system should be has been the subject of very careful and prolonged discussion, and they have come to the conclusion that a fixed sum of 15s. per week should be given by way of compensation for the deficit of blindness to all workers earning up to 5s. per week at Trade Union or other standard rates of pay. Where over 5s. per week is earned at such rate, the grant should be reduced by 4d. in the shilling for every shilling earned over 5s. By such a system the deficit of blindness is recognised as being equal up to a certain wage-earning limit, and thereafter as diminishing as the blind worker more nearly approximates to the sighted worker. It is recognised that augmentation of wages depends at present on the amounts of voluntary contributions received and allotted for this purpose, and must consequently be uneven in its incidence.

Impressed with the need for securing continuity of employment for blind workers, a conference was held with the spending departments of the Government, and their consent was obtained to a scheme whereby, on receipt of the necessary information as to the capacities and requirements from month to month of the several workshops, the departments concerned will put as much work as possible at their disposal.

The recent Education Bill, now passed into law as the Education Act, 1918, received the early attention of the Committee, and its clauses were carefully scrutinised with a view to safeguarding the interests of blind children. For this purpose the Committee conferred with the officers of the Board of Education. The Committee expressed the hope that compulsion could be put upon the authorities

under the Education Act, 1902, to make provision for the further training of blind persons after sixteen years of age. It was urged that the age of sixteen, fixed by the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, tended to operate adversely in the case of blind children who were capable of profiting by higher education as opposed to industrial training, in that the two years between fourteen and sixteen were in such cases to a large extent wasted. It was recognised that this could be met by adaptation of the curricula to meet such cases, and the Board of Education have agreed to consider this possibility. The question of the physical training of blind children and that of their musical training are under consideration.

At an early stage the Advisory Committee recommended the setting up of Local Advisory Committees to which they could look for advice as to the local requirements of the blind and as to the local application of principles recommended to and approved by the Local Government Board. The existence of the seven Counties Associations of Societies of the Blind finally determined their recommendations in this matter; it was advised that the new committees be built round them, and that the Associations be asked to submit suitable names, so that all interests concerned should be adequately represented. These recommendations were accepted by the Local Government Board. The numbers of each committee were limited to thirty, except in the case of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Committee, to which thirty-five members were allotted, and the committees were finally appointed by the Local Government Board. These committees have now held their first meetings, and the Advisory Committee looks forward with confidence to receiving valuable assistance from them, and trusts that the influence of the committees will make itself felt in the closer co-operation of all agencies for the blind and in the general amelioration of conditions.

oooo

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

TYPEWRITING WITHOUT HANDS.



HERE appeared in the Editorial columns of our June issue a reference to a striking instance of victory over a double handicap. Robbed of his eyesight and of both hands through the bursting of a defective bomb, Sergt. Alan M. Nicholls, 2nd Durham Light Infantry, was admitted to St. Dunstan's Hostel in a condition which, in a man of a less courageous spirit, would have been absolutely hopeless. Now, thanks to careful training, a specially constructed machine, and a pair of artificial hands, he is able to type letters unaided and to undertake most useful work. Recently he passed a stiff typewriting test which lasted two hours and a quarter.

The artificial hands are of French manufacture, being known as the Gable hands. They are of aluminium, and each finger is movable. Together they weigh 3½ lbs., and are worn without much discomfort, except at the end of a long day's work.

The machine which Sergt. Nicholls uses is an ordinary No. 7 Remington Typewriter, to which certain devices have been added which overcome the particular difficulties to which he is subject. A lever has been fixed to the shift key in such a manner as to make it possible for the typewriter to change from capitals to ordinary type by an arrangement of the knee, while at the back of the machine are fitted supports which carry a roll of paper, and this makes it possible for him to type a

large number of letters without having to get someone to put in a new sheet of paper every few minutes. The paper roll is perforated at suitable intervals so that the letters may be separated out after they have been written.

The keyboard and space bar are covered by a detachable metal case, with a funnel-shaped hole immediately over each key.



When typing Sergt. Nicholls has a metal striker resembling a hammer attached to his hand; with this he feels his way over the keyboard.

This unique typewriter was devised by Miss Knutford, who has devoted so much of her time and skill to the care and treatment of St. Dunstaners who have lost their arms and hands or had them badly damaged, together with St. Dunstan's and the Remington Typewriter Co.'s mechanics, and they deserve the highest praise, but the patient tenacity and wonderful skill of the operator commands the utmost respect and admiration. Sergt. Nicholls has taken lessons in elocution, and he frequently addresses meetings on the subject of the work of St. Dunstan's and of the National Institute for the Blind.

BRAILLE MUSIC NOTATION MEETING.

A MEETING of this Committee was held at the National Institute on Thursday, July 24th, the following members being present: Messrs. Dawber, Oke, Mayhew, Strangways, Spanner, E. Watson, and Rev. H. C. Lewis, with Mr. Warrilow in the chair.

The great question before the meeting was the embodiment—in a completely reconstructed 1896 Key to Braille Music—of the new signs and new methods which have been the outcome of this committee's previous deliberations; so after a short preliminary discussion of a few recommendations, the key was taken up paragraph by paragraph, commencing with notes, rests, etc. The preparation of the text of this new key has been in the able hands of Mr. Spanner for some time past, and it was his setting out which was submitted to the committee for discussion. To those who have studied the matter at all closely, the inadequacy of the old key is painfully obvious, and it is therefore high time that a new one should be provided, not only for the inclusion of new signs, but also from the point of view of setting out, and in providing better examples. The musical illustrations in the new book will be almost exclusively drawn from actual compositions.

Mr. Edward Watson is thoroughly re-modelling his book, "Braille Music Notation," and with this as a tutor and the new key as a textbook, ample facilities for the studies of Braille music should be provided.

WORKSHOPS FOR THE ADULT BLIND.

NEWCASTLE, GATESHEAD, AND DISTRICT.

A MOST successful year's work is reported by the Committee of the Newcastle, Gateshead, and District's Workshops for the Adult Blind. During the year the sum of £3,608 5s. 1d. was paid in wages. The total sales amounted to £6,511 8s. 11d., an appreciable increase on the previous year. A legacy of £1,000 was received from the estate of the late Mr. Clement Stephenson. Permission to undertake building operations—rendered necessary owing to lack of working accommodation—was obtained from the Ministry of Munitions. The National Institute for the Blind provided £1,000 as a first instalment of monies received in the district by the Institute's workers, and this sum, together with a much larger amount, handed over since the Report was compiled, will be used towards the erection of the workshops. In addition to the earnings obtained under the Trade Union conditions of employment, each male adult employee receives a grant of 15s. per week, and the women workers a subsidy of 10s. per week.

SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND, LIVERPOOL.

THIS Institution, which is situated in Hardman Street, Liverpool, and is commonly called the Liverpool Blind Asylum, is, with the exception of the one in Paris, the oldest school for the blind in the world. Among the trades taught at this school may be mentioned those of chair caning, rush seating, and hand and machine knitting. Several pupils have become fully qualified pianoforte tuners. The School for Blind Children at Wavertree is a branch of the above-mentioned institution.

In order to provide for the largely increased expenses consequent through the war, the Committee last year decided to increase the scale of fees to £30 per annum for both schools.

Five pupils have passed the examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and another obtained the Gardner Scholarship to the Normal College for the Blind.

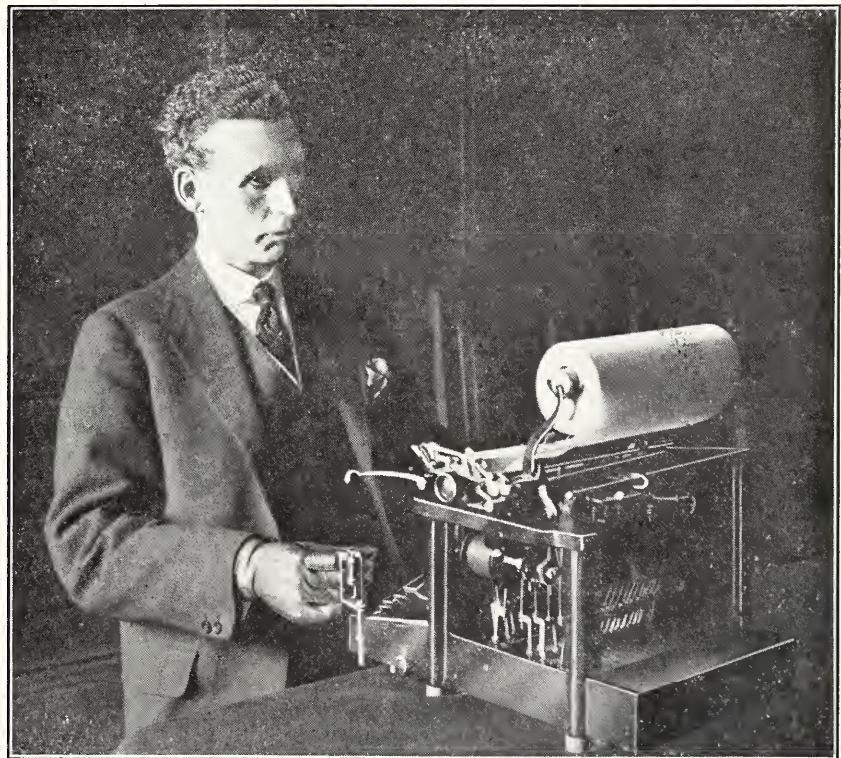
A JOURNEY TO BERLIN.



“ALLES EINSTEIGEN!” The American courier from Coblenz handed his last mailbag in at the carriage window, a group of hatless girls threw kisses to a windowful of the British Army of Occupation—without exception the most popular institution in present-day Rhineland—and the express steamed asthmatically out of Cologne station and under the huge girders of the Hohenzollern Bridge.

I spent the first few minutes of the journey Berlinwards chatting and smoking in the corridor with a group of young officers of the Lowlands Division going “home” to their billets in Solingen. At Ohligs they got out; and then came the first rude intimation that I was crossing the threshold into another country—a new, strange, different Germany. For immediately we had left Ohligs behind, the conductor’s face and manners changed; tearing down the label “Réserve aux Officiers” with a gesture of sudden defiance, he exclaimed, “That doesn’t apply here; we’re in Germany now!” And so we were. A number of Teutons with raucous voices and cheap cigars appeared, and the conductor proceeded with the real business of life—the making of money. During the night he must have made a good deal. For why go to the expense of a first-class ticket in a democratic land, where the conductor knows his place and his line of least resistance? One quickly finds that the up-to-date Teuton is no respecter of class distinctions, especially on the railways. He achieves his end by a little preliminary aggressiveness, a lavish use of the elbows, and finally a shameless talent for bribery. Somewhere east of Hanover I woke to find the

compartment filled with a medley of people who had all evidently made their peace with the conductor. A perspiring old man was leading a discussion on the miseries of travel in the Fatherland. He recited the details of waiting and struggling at the barrier, the expenses incurred in travelling first-class express on a third-class ordinary ticket; the wholesale robbery that went on with regard to luggage. He invariably carried his trunks himself, so as not to lose sight of them for a second. He glared round at us all whimsically as he spoke. Noticing that I was attentive, he told me stories of the selfishness of people nowadays; of profiteers; of the lady who occupies a first-class compartment alone with a lapdog, which she feeds on chocolates at a mark a morsel, while the corridor outside is packed with weary people—crippled soldiers some of them; of the damage done to railway property; of the



“Typewriting Without Hands.”

BACK VIEW OF THE MACHINE.

cloth torn from carriage seats for use as clothing; of the homeless ones who sleep in the waiting-rooms of the big stations; of the fortunes made from stolen property. . . . A further spell of sleep was impossible before the Friedrichstrasse terminus was reached.

One need not be long in Berlin to discover that a great change has come over the city, and this not to its advantage. The immense number of street hawkers dealing in all sorts of stolen property, such as boots, under-clothing, jewellery, have given a new aspect to thoroughfares into which such petty traders were formerly never allowed. Needless to say there are also many mendicants, seeking by the public exhibition of their physical misfortunes to arouse the pity of the charitable. Within the last few hours I have seen such sights as blind soldiers playing mouth organs in Unter den Linden and on the steps of one of the most elegant buildings in the show street of Berlin; while quite close there was an unfortunate man, both of whose arms had been almost shot off in the war, and who sat there dangling the gruesome remnants of these limbs in the sight of the passer-by. These incidents are not rendered less depressing by the neglected condition of the streets, once so spick and span as justly to arouse the admiration of every visitor.

The revolution, which opened the flood-gates of democracy, cannot be said to have produced an improvement in the manners of the people. Many are the complaints of rudeness on the part of the proletariat, and this is perhaps not surprising, since the worst elements of the city are always drifting aimlessly through the streets, and there is no visibly constituted authority. The police have disappeared, and the Guards, who for a time paraded the city in the interests of

public order, have ceased to perform this service. When night falls the central parts of Berlin are in many cases almost without illumination. The obscurity of Unter den Linden and of some of the adjoining streets is such as involuntarily to recall the precautions against air raids during the war. The Leipzigerstrasse and the Friederichstrasse are lighted with arc lamps, and in the latter till after midnight the crowds are such as to make the footways almost impassable. It is a sad, unlovely spectacle, since the "great sin of great cities" is nowhere more openly flaunted than in Berlin.

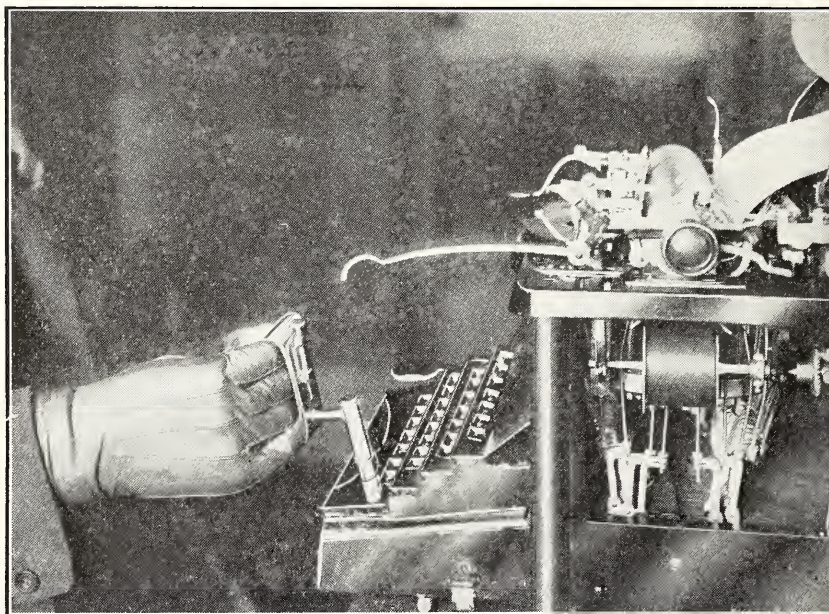
No, Berlin cannot be said to be an orderly city. It certainly is not cheap. The middle classes are the greatest sufferers, especially those who are usually known as the

"educated," such as professors, doctors, Civil Servants and teachers in the schools. Their lot is undoubtedly very hard, and many a silent tragedy is being enacted in the families of these people. —*The Times*, Aug. 13, 1919.

OOOO

IN connection with the expansion of the work of the Canadian National Institute for the

Blind, it has been thought desirable to organize territorial branches for the purpose of conducting the detailed administration of the work therein. A beginning has been made by the creation, under authority of the by-laws of the Institute, of the Ontario Division of the Canadian National Institute, which has been organized for the above purpose, and to which responsibility of carrying on the activities already inaugurated in the Province of Ontario which are by their nature purely Provincial, has been assigned. The Institute retains for direct control by the National Organization the following departments: Pearson Hall, the Library, After-Care, and Prevention of Blindness.



"Typewriting Without Hands."

SIDE VIEW, SHOWING STRIKER.

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL INSTITUTION FOR BLIND.

A YEAR of continued progress was reported at the annual meeting of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. A record was established in the sale of goods, the turnover amounting to £41,031, an increase of £7,160 on that of the previous year. A gratifying feature of the work of the trade committee is that the blind have been kept constantly employed throughout the period of the war. Trade Union rates have been paid, together with the Trade Union War Bonuses. In order to cope with the increased volume of work, additional workshops are contemplated in the near future. The number of persons who received benefit from the institution during the year was 987. The school continues to be managed most efficiently, and the work of the pupils attains a high standard. Under the Education Act of 1918, the cost of maintenance and education will, as from April 1st of this year, be charged in full to Education Authorities, subject to the approval of the Board of Education. The Education Authorities will be reimbursed to the extent of not less than one-half of their net cost out of moneys provided by Parliament. It will now be possible to receive grants from the Board of Education in respect to children of between two and five years of age.

It is gratifying to be able to state that in Greater Birmingham no child has completely lost its sight through infantile ophthalmia.

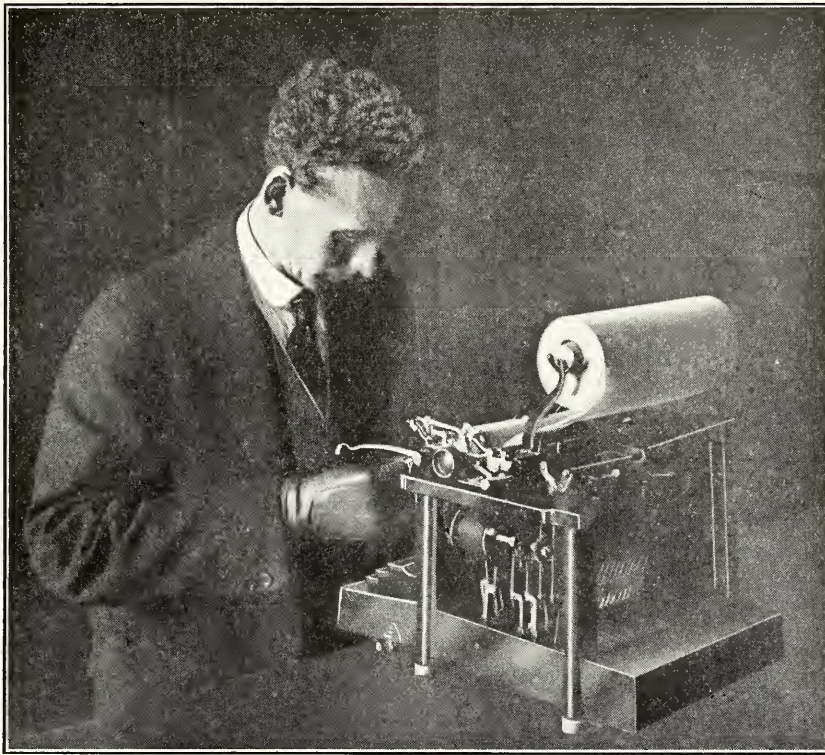
A new hostel for blind women workers is shortly to be opened. Mrs. Walker, widow of Dr. Walker, has presented the institution with the house, which will accommodate twenty women workers. The National Institute for the Blind has sent a donation of £500, and the Gardner Trust one of £200 towards the equipment of the hostel.

(Since the publication of the above report the hostel has been opened.)

O O O O

MR. W. H. THURMAN, who for more than ten and a half years has held the post of General Superintendent and Secretary of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the

Blind, has been appointed an inspector under the Ministry of Health in connection with the Ministry's work for the blind, and will take up his duties shortly. Mr. Thurman has done yeoman service at Birmingham, and while his official severance from the Royal Institution at Birmingham is greatly to be regretted, we feel that his new position will give him a wider sphere of usefulness in



"Typewriting Without Hands."

SERG. NICHOLLS TYPING.

the cause of the blind to which he is so greatly attached.

O O O O

WHALE oil, beloved of Tommy Atkins for lighting fires, and many other purposes, except that for which it was issued, namely, waterproofing his feet, has made some fortunes within the last few years. Investors in Georgia have been getting their capital back every year, and the industry in that region is not yet twenty years old. It is estimated that half a million barrels of whale oil were used by the Allies during the war.

ANDREW CARNEGIE.



MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE, whose death took place last month, realized perhaps even more completely than any man of his generation both the possibilities and the responsibilities of wealth. The vast fortune snatched from opportunity by a poor Scots lad, the contrast between the bitter opponent of organized labour and the propounder of theories of the duties of wealth, the colossal amount of his benefactions and critical scrutiny of their effects compelled the attention of the world.

Born at Dunfermline in Scotland more than eighty years ago, he began his industrial life in the United States as weaver's assistant in a cotton mill. Thence he passed to a small factory, where he fed the furnace in the cellar and tended the engine. This was all the manual work he ever did, for he was very soon taken into the office. He next became a telegraph messenger with the Ohio Telegraph Company. He mastered the code, risked taking a message against rules, and was rewarded by being made operator at £60 a year. Then he passed to the telegraphic service of the Pennsylvania Railroad, with another rise of salary. For eleven years he remained in the employ of the Railroad Company. The whole region was humming with activity. There were oil companies, manufacturing enterprises, railways and banks, and Carnegie, who was put in charge of important works during the Civil War, and became superintendent of the line in 1863, acquired friends and business experience as well as money. He was thus ready for the vast expansion of the iron and steel production which began about 1864. Carnegie was in no sense an inventor or creator. He achieved success because he had a wonderful eye for the opportunities that came with the expansion of American industry and a rare capacity for utilizing men.

In 1864 he bought his first interest in iron works. Soon afterwards he secured the backing of the greatest local magnates for a new venture, the Keystone Bridge Company. He resigned his railway appointment and devoted himself entirely to his private interests. In 1873 he went into the steel business, employing as capital £50,000 which he had earned as commissions for placing the stock of a new railway on the European market. This was his share in the new company of Carnegie, McCandless and Co., the total capital of which was £140,000. There were eleven partners. Twenty-six years later, when the business was sold for over £90,000,000, all Carnegie's partners save one had died, or gone out, and Carnegie's personal share was more than one-half of the colossal total. The amassing of this portentous wealth is a most remarkable achievement. Carnegie went through no long-drawn struggle against adversity, nor is his story one of incessant toil and application. The secret of his success lay in great measure in his withdrawal from the daily worries that beset the men on the spot and his consequent leisure to see the large movement of affairs and steer his course accordingly.

Carnegie's naturally kind and generous disposition and the memories and traditions of his Dunfermline proletariat days came into conflict with his consuming ambition. The business side always won. He would pay large wages, but otherwise he was a relentless employer, who fought strikes with bitterness.

In his "Gospel of Wealth" Mr. Carnegie stated his opinion that "surplus wealth was a sacred trust which its possessor was bound to administer in his lifetime for the good of the community." It is calculated that he gave away £70,000,000. Public libraries, higher education, endowment of international peace, a fund for heroes, promotion of scientific research were directions in which he lavished his wealth.

His private life was simple, wholesome and unostentatious. He eschewed luxury and display. Until the age of fifty he remained a bachelor, when he married Miss Whitfield, of New York. He had one child, a daughter, whose recent marriage was one of the great events of American life. His principal amusements were entertaining, fishing and golfing. There were few distinguished persons whose acquaintance he did not make, and no one could come in contact with him without being impressed by the strong and shrewd character underlying a superficial but real good-nature.

In later life he lived chiefly at Skibo Castle in Sutherlandshire. One of Carnegie's dreams was the union of Great Britain and the United States. The other great dream, the abolition of war, received a great shock in 1914. During the conflict he relapsed into complete silence and seclusion.

The name of Carnegie is probably well known to most of our readers in connection with the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust Fund, under which the National Institute for the Blind and the National Library for the Blind have benefited, a sum of money having been allotted by the Trust for the provision of Braille book plates, to be spread over a period of three years. A sum of money was also allotted for the provision of Moon book plates. It may interest our readers to hear how the Carnegie United Trust came into existence. As is well known, Mr. Carnegie during many years prior to 1912, gave grants of large sums to Local Authorities in the United Kingdom for the erection of Public Libraries to be maintained by local rates, and to Churches of all denominations throughout the United Kingdom towards aiding them in the acquisition of organs. As the application for these grants increased and their administration became more difficult, Mr. Carnegie determined to place the administration of grants under the control of a permanent body of Trustees, who would continue the grants so far as they found it advisable, but who were at the same time authorised to consider in what other directions the well-being of the masses of the people of the United Kingdom could best be furthered by the funds which he had determined to place at their disposal. In October, 1913, therefore, Mr. Carnegie executed a Trust Deed whereby a capital sum of ten million dollars was placed in trust, so that the income, amounting to about

£100,000 a year, might be used "for the improvement of the well-being of the masses of the people of Great Britain and Ireland by such means as the Trustees may from time to time select as best fitted from age to age for securing these purposes, remembering that new needs are constantly arising as the masses advance." In forming the Trust, Mr. Carnegie was following out a precedent which he had established by the formation of a somewhat similar Trust, designated the Carnegie Corporation of New York, for the benefit of the people of the United States and of Canada; the three countries were thus placed on a similar footing.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULAR.

THE Ministry of Health have issued a circular, dated 7th August, 1919, in which particulars are given of the grant to be distributed in aid of certain services carried on for the benefit of the blind. An estimate for the same has been laid before Parliament, and the grant, if voted, will be appropriated in aid of these services for the period from 1st July, 1919, to 31st March, 1920. The grant will be available in respect of the following services:—1. Workshops for the Blind. 2. Provision of assistance to Home-Workers. 3. Homes and Hostels for the Blind. 4. Home Teaching. 5. Book Production. 6. The work of Counties Associations. 7. Miscellaneous.

Pecuniary provision for relieving the lot of the unemployable blind living in their own homes has not yet been made, for the reason that none such is possible until suitable legislation has been passed. A promise has been given that proposals will be laid before Parliament as soon as possible. The regulations governing the distribution of the grant are therefore a temporary expedient, yet one which it seems clear should not be held back, pending the passing of fresh legislation. As we are about to go to press, we propose giving these regulations in next month's issue of our magazine.

OOOO

"WHY did you snatch the lady's purse?" asked the magistrate.

"Because, your worship, I thought the change might do me good," answered the prisoner.

SPECIAL MEETING OF TUNERS.



ON Thursday, July 17th, at 7.30 p.m., a meeting to discuss trade rates for blind tuners was held in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute. Mr. Ben Purse was unanimously chosen chairman, but as he had to leave early, Mr. Warrilow took the chair for the second hour of the meeting. Mr. Purse in his opening remarks briefly summarised the points for discussion, the chief one of these being the best means of obtaining the minimum rate for blind tuners working in factories. He was of opinion that as this was a Trade Union question, all the blind concerned should join their own Trade Union, the National League of the Blind, of whose usefulness in matters of this kind he could quote many instances. He held strongly the view that the Pianoforte Workers' Branch of the National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association should do their utmost to assist blind tuners on their register to get the minimum rate, and where there was a refusal to grant the minimum to fully qualified tuners, it was the duty of the men to "down tools" on their behalf. Mr. Speakman, representing the Joint Committee of the Pianoforte Workers' Branch of the N.A.F. T.A., said that his committee were prepared to do all they could to support the claims of blind tuners entitled to the minimum wage, and he agreed that such tuners as were members of the Association should receive the same consideration as sighted men. In answer to those who asked why, then, had not such support been given to the blind, he said that the time was at present young, his committee having been in existence only six months. In reply to another question, Mr. Speakman said that the Shop Committee could determine the wage of improvers and others who could not be regarded as fully skilled workers, but that the minimum wage was decided by the Trade Union. All those, therefore, who considered that the quality of their work justified them in asking for more than the minimum, must present their own case to their employers. The fear was expressed that if employers were forced to pay

the minimum to blind tuners, though they might agree to do so, they would take an early opportunity of discharging such men. It was admitted that this emergency might arise, but it was evidently the view of the meeting that this should not deter a reasonable pressing of the claims of the blind. It was obviously undesirable, however, to press the case of those who could not be legitimately regarded as skilled men.

It was proposed by Mr. Searl and seconded by Mr. Gibbs that a committee of seven should be formed—consisting exclusively of those working in factories or showrooms—to advise the Joint Committee on matters concerning the blind. The following gentlemen were appointed: Messrs. Green, May, Pearlstone, Kick, Alfred Harmour, Servant, Tucker. This committee has held two meetings, and will report to a second general meeting, to be held in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind on Thursday, September 18th, at 7.30 p.m.

The position of outdoor men was brought forward, and it was hoped that something would be done for them also in the way of securing a minimum wage, but the fact that their case is not at present included in Trade Union demands prevented the question from receiving more than a passing mention.

Near the end of the proceedings Mr. Kreemer (a member of the National Institute for the Blind Tuning Board) made a spirited and eloquent appeal for fearlessness on the part of blind tuners, strongly urging them to support the Joint Committee which Mr. Speakman represented; and with a vote of thanks to the chairmen the meeting adjourned.

H. C. W.

oooo

THE Biennial Convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind was held at Toronto from June 24th to June 27th. With but one exception this was the largest Convention in the history of the organization. The papers read were of a high order of merit.

LIFE STORY OF EDWARD RUSHTON.



“IT isn't Life that matters; it's the courage we bring to it” — the opening words of Mr. Hugh Walpole's novel “Fortitude” — may well be applied to the man whose life story we have under consideration to-day. For Edward Rushton, poet and prose-writer, was fearless in word and action and indifferent to criticism, and in spite of the handicap of his blindness he accomplished much in the cause of suffering humanity. He was born in Liverpool in 1755, and was of humble parentage. His education, which he received at a free school, terminated at the early age of nine. We then find him reading Anson's “Voyage,” and fired with the ambition to become a sailor. Before his eleventh year he was apprenticed to a firm of West India ship-pers, and was a “sea-boy on the high and giddy mast.”

He seems to have been a credit to his calling, for at the age of sixteen he guided his ship into safety in a storm when captain and crew had given it up for lost. He became second mate, and continued in that capacity until the term of his apprenticeship had expired. Having joined a slaving expedition to the coast of

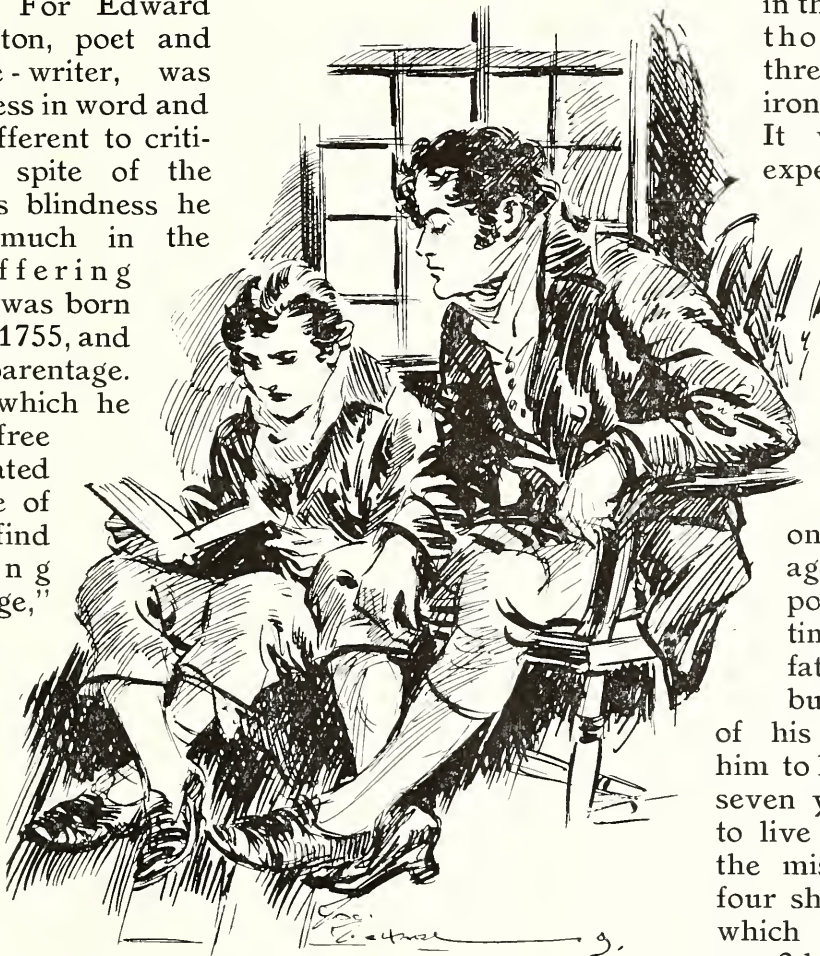
Guinea, Rushton was so horrified at the brutal treatment meted to the natives, that he “expressed his sentiments of it in strong and pointed language, with that boldness and integrity which characterized his every action; and, though in a subordinate situation, he went so far in that respect that it was thought necessary to threaten him with the irons if he did not desist.”

It was while on this expedition that he was

attacked by violent inflammation of the eyes, and in three weeks his sight completely failed him.

Deprived of the calling which he loved so well, Rushton, then only nineteen years of age, went back to Liverpool, where for a short time he lived with his father and stepmother, but the violent temper of his stepmother forced him to leave the house. For seven years he was obliged to live as best he could on the miserable allowance of four shillings a week, out of which sum he managed to pay 3d. a week to a boy who came to read to him in the evenings. In 1782, he published a political poem, “The

Dismembered Empire,” condemnatory of the American War. This poem, together with his “Fugitive Pieces,” brought him some reputation, which led his father to repent and to establish him and his sister in a tavern in Liverpool. Shortly after this he married. About this time Rushton excited



“HE MANAGED TO PAY 3D. A WEEK TO A BOY WHO CAME TO READ TO HIM IN THE EVENINGS.”

enmity in his native town by his opposition to the Slave Trade. He published his "West Indian Eclogues" in 1787, and afterwards gave assistance to Thomas Clarkson in the collection of evidence on the subject. He now relinquished the tavern, and took up the editorship, as well as a share in the proprietorship of the *Liverpool Herald*. For some time he "pursued this with much pleasure and little profit, until finding it impossible to express himself in that independent and liberal manner which his reason and conscience dictated, he threw up his situation, and had to begin the world once more."

With an increasing family and very limited means, Rushton hesitated before fixing on any particular course of life. He thought of several things, but, to quote his biographer once again, "none seemed more agreeable to his taste than the business of a bookseller; his habits and his pursuits combining to render it more eligible than any other which presented itself to his thoughts."

With thirty guineas, five children, and a wife to whose exertions he was greatly indebted, he commenced bookselling. This excellent wife laboured incessantly; and with attention and frugality the business succeeded, and Rushton felt himself more easy. At this time politics ran very high in Liverpool. Rushton had published several of his pieces, all in favour of the 'Rights of Man.' He became a noted character, was marked and shot at; the lead passed very close to his eyebrow, but did not do him the smallest injury."

Rushton was one of the founders of a literary and philosophical society in Liverpool. It was he who originated the idea of making provision for the indigent blind, the result being the foundation of the Liverpool Blind Asylum.

His friends began to desert him; they were afraid of being seen near the house of a man of his revolutionary opinions. "Such," complains his biographer, "are the prejudices with which a man has to struggle whose determination it is to speak and act as his heart shall dictate. Difference of opinion respecting the best means of promoting a virtuous end—the good of mankind—is frequently the cause of disuniting friends who have long been warmly attached, and whose motives are, perhaps, equally pure." But a few of Rushton's true friends remained

staunch and offered him pecuniary assistance which he, however, refused. Towards the end of his life he partially recovered his sight.

Edward Rushton's productions are remarkable, not so much for their literary value, as for the spirit in which they were written. His feelings were ever alive to the sufferings of his fellow-creatures. It was the same to him by what name they were called, or to what country they belonged—whether it was the slave of India or Africa, or the oppressed of his own country. It was his intense love of all mankind which induced him, in 1797, to write a letter to Washington, then President of the United States, ex-postulating with him in no measured terms on the subject of Negro Slavery. This letter is perhaps the best-known of Rushton's literary productions. His poems are not widely known, but his "Ode to Blindness," "To the Memory of Chatterton," and "Mary le More" have much charm. During the last years of his life he wrote little, but that little summed up all the principles of liberty and justice which were his throughout his life.

The London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind.

THE eighty-first annual report of the London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind at Swiss Cottage is to hand. We note that the amount of business done on the industrial side of the Institution constitutes a record, the sales amounting to £2,979 6s. 3d., as against £1,755 10s. 6d. last year. More blind workers have been employed and higher wages paid than was ever the case before. The amount of wages paid to blind workers for the past year reached the figure of £1,011 16s. 2d. Most of the work done in the basket shop has been of direct national value, consisting largely of War Office and Admiralty contracts. The Boot Shop's most important customer is the School, but it is interesting to note that a contract has been concluded with the Church Army for the supply and repair of boots for one of the Girls' Homes. In the Piano Tuning Department is a thoroughly competent and experienced tuner ready to take all orders in hand. The number of pupils at the close of the school year was:—In the Elementary School, sixty. In the School of Technology, twenty-nine.

LEADERS OF THE BLIND.

THE National League of the Blind held a demonstration in Hyde Park on August 17th, in support of State aid for the blind. A number of trade union, co-operative and Labour bodies gave their aid in the formation of a procession, which started from the Embankment, and in which several hundred blind men took part. There were six platforms, from which several well-known Labour leaders spoke in support of the objects of the meeting.

A resolution was passed demanding that effect should be given without delay to the recommendations and conclusion of the inter-departmental committee on the welfare of the blind by immediately introducing such legislation as will secure decent conditions of life and labour for every sightless person in the British Isles.

STATE AID FOR THE BLIND.

THE claims of the Blind Community to more generous State aid were urged at the House of Commons on July 31st, when a meeting of members of Parliament and of a deputation from the National League of the Blind took place. Most of the members of the deputation were themselves blind men, and they were led by Mr. Ben Purse, the President of the League.

Mr. Stephen Walsh, who presided over the meeting, said that if they wanted to encourage the blind to become self-respecting citizens it would have to be made clear that the State must accept a much larger share of responsibility than it had yet undertaken. The Blind Community had been especially disappointed at the refusal by the Treasury of a substantial money grant for increasing the efficiency of the workshops in which blind people were employed.

Mr. Purse expressed the fear that a good part of the interim Government grants-in-aid would be consumed in administration charges and would not benefit the blind. (There are to be grants for workshops, home teaching societies, homes and hostels, and the provision of Braille and Moon literature, and

also to the Union of Societies and Agencies of the Blind). He said that the position of the unemployed blind was serious. Workshops throughout the country employed less than 3,000 blind out of 34,000, and he felt that the State had something to gain from the employment of these folk. There were 700 blind persons in London alone existing on less than 10s. a week. He particularly urged financial provision on the part of the Treasury for increasing wages paid to blind employees and for the care of the aged and infirm blind poor.

Mr. R. D. Smith, a member of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, said the scheme the Committee placed before the Government recognized the principle of assistance to individuals, but the Treasury recognized no right of the individual at all. Mr. Lloyd George had promised that one of the first things the Government would do after the war would be to introduce legislation on behalf of the blind, and some of them were thinking that it was about time that promise was fulfilled.

The members of Parliament present agreed to form a Committee or group to watch and press the Government on the subject.

ANCIENT SWORD FOR THE KING.

KING GEORGE received at Buckingham Palace recently Sheikh Abdulla bin 'Isa al Khalifah, C.I.E., and Sheikh Muhamed bin Abdullah, son and grandson of the ruling chief of Bahrein, Sir Sheikh 'Isa bin Ali al Khalifah.

These interesting visitors presented to his Majesty a wonderful old sword which had been in the family for generations. This memento of the victory of the Allies is encased in a modern gold scabbard richly studded with pearls. The King gave the envoys a signed portrait of himself in a handsome silver frame.

Bahrein, in the Persian Gulf, has been absolutely loyal throughout the war. The chief now visiting England is the third of the ruling Sheikh's three sons. He is an enlightened and business-like man and a great sportsman who specialises in horse racing and hawking. He owns some good horses.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

IN presenting their annual report, the Committee of the National Library for the Blind state that the work of the last year has been of an entirely encouraging nature. The names of fresh readers are continually being added to the register, and it is pleasing to note that over 200 men who have finished their training at St. Dunstan's are regular and enthusiastic readers.

Large grants of books are continued from the National Institute for the Blind; 4,000 volumes of new Braille publications have been received from the Institute this year (representing 37 complete works), besides 1,060 pieces of music (representing 200 complete musical works). The Institute has also presented two copies of each published work to the Northern Branch, and over 1,000 volumes in Moon type to the Library. Among the volumes of literature given by the Institute, 2,110 were printed from plates, of which the cost of production was borne by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.

Then 345 volumes, representing eight complete works, have been received from the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craig-millar, and copies of their recent publications have also been sent by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge.

The year has been rendered memorable in the history of library work for the blind by the opening of the Northern Branch of the National Library in Manchester. The Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society have generously presented their collection of 8,000 volumes to form the nucleus of the Branch Library, which will be responsible for the distribution of books and music in the following counties: Derbyshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire.

It is a matter of some difficulty to ascertain the exact number of readers who use the books at the National Library for the Blind, as a great many obtain their volumes through the agency of the Public Libraries, Home Teaching Societies and Institutions for the Blind, supplied from the National Library. The actual increase of individual readers since the Library was declared free is approximately 2,000. During the year the direct circulation of volumes from the Library was 91,886 as against 69,414 in 1917. This total

does not include the circulation of books whilst these are in charge of the libraries and institutions, when they pass through the hands of many thousands of readers. The average daily circulation from Tufton Street is 500 volumes in and 500 out.

The total number of volumes of literature added during 1918 was 7,000—the number of volumes of music was 1,200. Nine hundred and fourteen volumes were produced by voluntary writers, the educative value of whose work it is difficult to over-estimate.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind.

FICTION

Three Stories from the Green Flag

Sir A. Conan Doyle

Zeppelin Destroyer, 3 vols. *William le Queux*

A Kiss from France *A. Neil Lyons*

Courtship of Morice Buckler, 4 vols., *A. E. W. Mason*

Miriam Cromwell, 5 volumes *D. G. McChesney*

Into Temptation, 4 volumes *Alice Perrin*

Mrs. Galer's Business, 4 volumes *W. Pett Ridge*

Men, Women and Guns, 4 vols. *"Sapper"*

Song of the Cardinal *G. Stratton-Porter*

The Open Road, 4 vols. *Halliwell Sutcliffe*

Missing, 5 vols. *Mrs. Humphry Ward*

Robert Elsmere, 14 vols. *Mrs. Humphry Ward*

MISCELLANEOUS

H. G. Wells *J. D. Beresford*

Petrograd: The City of Trouble, 1914-18, 3 vols.

Meriel Buchanan

Science and Living Christianity, 2 vols.

E. M. Caillard

A Spiritual Pilgrimage, 4 vols. *R. J. Campbell*

Lord Randolph Churchill, 15 vols.

Winston Spencer Churchill

Abraham Lincoln: A Play *John Drinkwater*

Stellar Movements and the Structure of the Universe,

4 vols. *A. S. Eddington*

Then and Now, 3 vols. *Dean S. R. Hole*

Wild Life in a Southern County *R. Jefferies*

Old Lamps for New, 3 vols. *E. V. Lucas*

Gospels and the Gospel, 3 vols *G. R. S. Mead*

Rudyard Kipling *John Palmer*

Assyria, 5 vols. *A. Z. Razogin*

Spiritual Progress, 2 vols. *Rev. A. W. Robinson*

MOON

Life in Saxon England *W. F. Collier*

Dr. Marigold's Prescription, 8 vols. *C. Dickens*

Kidnapped, 5 vols. *R. L. Stevenson*

OOOO

THE subscription rate for *The Beacon* for Great Britain and the Colonies is 3s. per annum, post free; for foreign countries, 4s. 2d. Single copies can be bought for 3d., or 4d. post free.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—No. 34.

OCTOBER, 1919.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.



IN the *Yorkshire Observer* dated the 12th of September there is an article entitled "Landmarks of the Blind in Bradford," dealing with the way in which people who have lost their sight manage to get about the busy streets of a city. The subject of the creation of a spirit of independence among all handicapped by the loss of vision is, we feel sure, one that should be aired on all possible occasions by all interested in the welfare of the sightless.

Sympathetic co-operation is, as we have had more than one opportunity of pointing out in these columns, a different thing to unintelligent pity. No matter how handicapped one may be physically, the last thing in the world that an intelligent human being desires is that every five minutes of the day his handicap should be made more and more insistent to him. Yet this is often what happens to people who have lost their sight. With the best intentions in the world, out of the very kindness of their hearts, far too many people do all in their power to rob the blind man of every chance he may have of winning independence of action.

There is, however, one point in the article that has given us this idea for an Editorial which is open to argument. In describing how blind men get about the city of Bradford alone, the writer says:—

"The kerbstone is undoubtedly the guide, counsellor, and trusted friend of the blind. Those who have watched the blind people move about the streets of Bradford,

however, must guess that there is more in it than meets the eye. Sound, for instance, is the chief landmark of the blind—if the double mixing of metaphor might be excused for the sake of the pathetic significance.

"As street name-plates are to the sighted the noises of the traffic are to the acute ear with which most of the blind are blessed. At the same time, noises often interfere with the fine art of the travelling blind.

"The general method is to have a stick, which is run along the causeway edge. Often enough this stick is tapped more to keep other people out of the way than for any intelligence it conveys to the blind man. However, the tap itself is sometimes a source of contact with the outside world. Particular flagstones are known by the sound they yield. Moreover, the proximity of posts, pillars, and people is communicated by these tell-tale kerb-stones. What is described as a dullness of sound is as a red lamp in the realms of darkness."

Now here in London there are a considerable number of blind men who get about without a guide, and in view of what we have just quoted, we think it might be valuable to give the testimony of a blind friend of our own who has undoubtedly proved that blindness is a handicap which can be reduced to just that and nothing more. "I never walk along the curb," he says, "and although I carry a stick I never use it for tapping purposes. I always walk down the middle of the pavement, and have so developed my 'facial nerve sight' (if I may coin the expression) that I have become exceedingly sensitive to people approaching me, or to the proximity of a fixed object, such as a lamp-post or a wall. From my

point of view the curb is a death-trap ; lamp-posts are set all along the curb usually, pillar-boxes are on the curb, bicycles are propped against the curb, carts with projecting axle-hubs are often against the curb, whereas, if you keep boldly down the middle of the pavement and go warily, it will not be long before you discover that this is really the only safe course."

We feel we cannot do better than conclude our Editorial with quotations from this interesting article:—

"One of the collectors for the Institution thinks nothing of going as far afield as Huddersfield or Holmfirth, tramming, training, and walking all on his own ; yet, so far as is known, he has never met with an accident. Another man who, though not stone-blind, cannot see enough with the natural eye to avoid the ordinary obstacles of the street, has this summer travelled alone from Bradford to Southport and back by tramcars for a holiday—to enjoy a whiff of the briny and to hear the tide come in.

"Mr. Priestley also recalls a clever blind pianist of Bradford who had the 'sense of colour.' He could tell you the colour of the wallpaper in any room he entered. Some of the blind people are studious, and one is a botanist, able to tell any tree of which he can handle a leafy twig and almost any plant he touches. Then their keenness in regard to money is great. They know not only the customary coins, but also the 'Bradburys'—the £1 from the 10s. note, and even the red 10s. note from the green.

"Gradients are another landmark. Railings, gateways, and carriage-ways across the pavements are other features that count as landmarks of the blind. From one such landmark to another, from one turning or danger point to another, the number of steps forms a part of the blind man's mental equipment.

"Some of the clever ones do appear to walk along with consummate ease, but it is the ease of skill.

"It is not easy,' said one with whom the writer spoke.

"How did you first begin to find your way about?' he was asked ; and he replied : 'By getting out "soon on" in the morning and studying the road.'

"That is what it really amounts to : thorough and persevering concentration on such painfully tedious processes as those of

counting one's steps ; of storing up in the mind the number of steps from point to point, the number of streets to be passed before the right turning is found ; and so on *ad infinitum*."

THE BLIND IN BURMA.

THE new school for the education of the blind inhabitants of Burma was formally opened by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on Wednesday, July 30. There was a large and enthusiastic gathering of Europeans, Burmese, Chinese and Indians, who listened attentively as the blind principal, the Rev. W. H. Jackson, unfolded his scheme for the development of the work. His Honour indicated in his speech that the Government were prepared to give a substantially increased grant and appealed for a larger measure of support from the Missionary Society and also from the public. The Bishop also spoke and commended the work to the public, after which a collection was taken and the Hon. E. J. Holberton, the new treasurer, announced that a Burmese friend of his had presented Rs.15,000. The total collection realised, at the present rate of exchange, about £2,000.

The pressing need of the moment is a trained worker who will initiate an after-care scheme which will enable the boys who have been trained in our school to enter at once upon a career of usefulness the moment they leave school. It is no favour to a blind boy to take him from his jungle home and then after giving him an expensive theoretical education, to fling him back on his old surroundings without providing him with the means for earning his own living. There must therefore be an after-care scheme which will enable us to follow up the boys who have left school and provide them with a trade which will make them self-supporting. The need of a worker of this kind seemed to the Committee so urgent that it was decided to send Mr. Jackson home immediately in order to find the right man, and it is hoped that anyone reading these lines who is interested in the matter will communicate with him at S.P.G. House. A lady worker is also needed to do for the girls work that has already been accomplished for the boys.

INCIDENCE OF OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

BY BEN PURSE.



THOSE of us who have watched the progress of arrangements for dealing with this terrible scourge during the past few years must feel a thrill of pleasure as they peruse the last report issued by the Ministry of Health.

Though such arrangements are not by any means all that could be desired, yet the concentration of public attention and the

vigilance of medical officers and other officials closely identified with the work is having a most salutary effect.

In a memorandum to the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, Sir Arthur Newsholme, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, summarised the notification of this disease made up to the end of 1913 to medical officers of health of sanitary districts which had made this disease notifiable. The information thus obtained is given below :—

APPENDIX No. 11.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM NOTIFICATION STATISTICS.

A. Extract from Memorandum prepared for the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases.*

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Summary of Notification since adoption of Notification.

—	Notification in force during 4 yrs. (1910-13)				Notification in force during 3 yrs. (1911-13)†			
	Population 1911	Average No. of Births per Annum, 1910-12	Total Notifica- tions	Average Annual Case-rate per 1,000 Births	Population 1911	Average No. of Births per Annum, 1910-12	Total Notifica- tions	Average Annual Case-rate per 1,000 Births
Urban Districts †...	751,197 (3 districts)	19,590	1,617	20·6	6,647,008 (76 districts)	167,700	4,225	8·7
Rural Districts ...	—	—	—	—	77,465 (6 districts)	1,720	8	1·6
Total ...	751,197 (3 districts)	19,590	1,617	20·6	6,724,473 (82 districts)	169,420	4,233	8·7
—	Notification in force during 2 yrs. (1912-13)				Notification in force during 1 year (1913)			
Urban Districts †...	8,883,195 (118 districts)	230,395	3,810	8·3	10,809,196 (162 districts)	279,921	1,898	6·8
Rural Districts ...	360,454 (24 districts)	8,199	17	1·0	687,374 (53 districts)	15,063	15	1·0
Total ...	9,243,649 (144 districts)	238,594	3,827	8·0	11,496,570 (215 districts)	294,984	1,913	6·5

* Final Report of Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, p. 98. † Including county and other boroughs.

‡ The figures for London in 1911 relate to 12 weeks only.

In the year 1911, 799 cases were notified in 56 sanitary districts outside London, of which number 438 were in Manchester and 238 in Stoke-on-Trent. In that year also, 575 cases were notified in London.

In the year 1912, Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notifiable in 127 districts, and 2,186 cases were notified, of which number 697 were in London, 527 in Manchester, 237 in Stoke-on-Trent, and 222 in Birmingham.

In 1913, this disease was notifiable in 287 sanitary areas, the number of cases notified being 2,078.

On April 1st, 1914, the Local Government Board made regulations for the notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum throughout England and Wales.

The number of cases notified and the rate per 1,000 births in subsequent years is given below:—

	Cases.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1914 (from April 1st)....	6,166	9.32
1915.....	6,806	8.34
1916.....	7,613	9.69
1917.....	6,716	10.05
1918.....	6,532	9.85

The report shows tables which disclose remarkable differences. Thus, for every 1,000 births in Stoke-on-Trent 40.2 cases of this disease were notified, in Derby 37.2, in Manchester 32.6, and in Nottingham 27.6; while at the other end of the scale only 2.1 cases per 1,000 births were notified in Blackburn and in Barrow-in-Furness, 2.5 in Lincoln, and 3.0 in West Bromwich.

In the county areas the variations were not so great; but in Shropshire 10.8, in the Isle of Wight 10.3, in Worcestershire 8.9 cases were notified per 1,000 births, whereas in seven Welsh counties and in five English counties the rate was below 3 per 1,000 births.

In the Metropolitan boroughs the extremes were: 15.2 per 1,000 births in Chelsea, 13.4 in Westminster, 12.9 in Hammersmith, and 4.5 in Lewisham, 4.4 in Camberwell and Islington, and 3.7 in Bermondsey.

We are told that "in view of the extreme divergencies in notifications shown in the tables, letters were addressed to the Medical Officers of Health of eleven large towns which had marked differences in notification rates. With one exception it was found that notifications made directly to the Medical Officer of Health by doctors or midwives had been included in the weekly statistical

returns to the Board, intimations to the Local Supervising Authority by midwives of 'inflammation of, or discharge from, the eyes, however slight,' not having been included. It appears, therefore, that the notification rates are broadly comparable, on the assumption that notification is fully carried out in every area." Sir Arthur Newsholme pertinently adds, however, that this assumption cannot safely be made, for it is difficult to believe that notification rates of 37.2 in Derby and of 3.0 in West Bromwich, of 10.8 in Shropshire and of 5.4 in Glamorganshire, of 15.2 in Chelsea and 4.4 in Camberwell, correspond, at least on the minimum side, with actual experience. There can be little doubt that in some areas the notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum is much more complete than in others. On the other hand, it is likely that the high incidence of notified Ophthalmia Neonatorum in such areas as Stoke-on-Trent, Manchester, and Nottingham corresponds with high incidence of the disease, and does not mean merely satisfactory local notification and administration.

Whatever may be the conclusions and deductions drawn from the tables quoted, it is obvious that appreciable progress is being registered in the application of curative methods.

A little more vigilance and the speeding up of local administration will in the near future, we are confident, reduce blindness from this disease to a minimum.

oooo

ROYAL SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY FOR THE BLIND, BRISTOL.

THE Committee of the Royal School of Industry for the Blind, Bristol, report a satisfactory year's work. The numbers in the Technical Department have been well maintained, and the demand for fully trained and efficient apprentices has been greater than for many years. Considerable progress has been made in the music and piano-tuning department. Fully qualified teachers give instruction in physical training, and during the whole year the health of the pupils was satisfactory.

The wages paid to blind workers during 1918 amounted to £1,768 12s. 5d., to which should be added for augmentation the sum of £629 4s. 6d. and war bonus £400 4s. 5d.

EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.



UNDER the heading "Extraordinary Accomplishments," James Wilson, in his book "The Biography of the Blind," gives us an account of a lady who, having lost her sight at an early age, invented systems of reading, writing, playing cards, etc., which appear to have been entirely successful. We are not told when this lady lived, but presume that it must have been at the beginning of the 18th Century. We give Mr. Wilson's account in his own words, as it is quaint and full of interest:—

"Mademoiselle Salignac, of Xaintonge, lost her sight when only two years old, her mother having been advised to lay pigeon's blood on her eyes to preserve them in the small-pox; whereas, so far from answering the end, it inflamed them. Nature, however, may be said to have compensated for that unhappy mistake by beauty of person, sweetness of temper, vivacity of genius, quickness of conception, and many talents which certainly softened her misfortune. She played at revertis without any direction, and often faster than others of the party; she first prepared the two packs allotted to her, pricking them in several parts, yet so imperceptibly that the closest inspection could scarcely discover her indexes; at every party she altered them, and they were known only to her; she sorted the suits, and arranged the cards in their proper sequence, with the same precision, and nearly the same facility, as they who have their sight. All she required of those who played with her was to name every card as it was played; and these she retained so exactly that she performed some noble strokes at revertis, such as showed a great combination and strong memory. A very wonderful circumstance was that she learnt to read and write, for she regularly corresponded with her eldest brother, whom some mercantile affairs had called to Bordeaux; from her

hand he received an exact account of everything that concerned them. The mode adopted by her friends in writing to her was to use no ink, but the letters were pricked down on the paper, and by the delicacy of her touch, feeling each letter, she followed them successively, and read every word with her fingers' ends. A person scratched, with a scissors' point, on a card, 'Mademoiselle de Salignac est fort amiable;' she fluently read it, yet the writing was small, and the letters very ill-shaped. In writing, she made use of a pencil, as she could not know when her pen was dry; her guide on the paper was a small thin ruler, of the breadth of her writing. On finishing a letter, she wetted it, which fixed the traces of the pencil, so that they were not obscured or effaced; then she proceeded to fold and seal it, and write the direction, all by her own address, and without the assistance of any other person. Her writing was very straight, well cut, and the spelling no less correct. To teach this singular mechanism required such a subject, and the indefatigable care of her affectionate mother, who accustoming her daughter to feel letters cut out of cards or pasteboard, brought her to distinguish an A from a B, and thus the whole alphabet, and afterwards to spell words; then, by the remembrance of the shape of the letters, to delineate them on paper; and lastly, to arrange them, so as to form words and sentences.

"She learnt, and almost by herself, to play on the guitar, sufficiently for her little companions to dance to, and had even contrived a way of pricking down her tunes, as an assistance to her memory; but being at Paris with her father and mother, a music master taught her in the common method, observing the way used in writing to the young lady by pricking, and to distinguish the whites they were made larger. She learnt to sing, and, so acute were her organs, that in singing a tune, though new to her;

she was able to name the notes for them to be pricked down whilst singing; she even told the movement of them. In figured dances she acquitted herself extremely well; and in a minuet with inimitable ease and gracefulness.

"She was very clever in the works of her sex, having made a silk and silver purse, wrought in knotted points on a wooden mould. She sewed perfectly well; and in her work she threaded her needles for herself, however small. She never failed telling by the touch the exact hour and minute by her watch."

HOW THE BLIND MAY SIGN.

IT is well known that blind people are only able to write their names very imperfectly and in a way which does not give any real guarantee of authenticity.

The French State Office for the payment of regular pensions to those who have lost their sight through the war at one time refused to acknowledge such a signature, and required that the blind man should present himself on each occasion in the company of two witnesses who would guarantee his identity by their own signatures.

M. Brioux made a public protest against this procedure on the ground that it resulted in a great deal of inconvenience to those unfortunate men who are particularly deserving of our sympathy, and as a result it was decided that the signature of blind men should be accepted.

But since they have no real value in law, Dr. Ferrier, who has now raised the whole question in the Academy of Medicine, thinks it would be more prudent to accept in their place the imprint of the bulb of the first finger previously smeared with lamp black. This form of print, adopted from Oriental custom, says the *Lancet*, is already required of volunteer soldiers in order to avoid their replacement by substitutes. Nothing could be more simple than to apply it to the signature of official documents by those who are blind. All such people would then carry a card on which the finger-print of the owner would be placed below his photograph.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Madzi Moyo, P.O. Ft. Jam., Rhodesia,
3rd Aug., 1919.

The Editor of *The Beacon*.

Dear Sir,—I have read *The Beacon* the last two years, and my interest in it is growing daily. It has been a great help to me in my dealing with the blind out here.

I am a missionary teacher, and so many of the natives, among whom we work, are blind, mostly through small-pox. I started my class about three years ago. I have seventeen in my class. They are very eager to learn. More than half the class can read and write quite well. They are so fond of singing, and sing better than most of the natives.

They are not so keen on manual labour, but it is compulsory to work, and some of them have managed to learn to weave baskets, and make brooms and tennis nets.

It is a real pleasure to me to read what other teachers and heads of institutes are doing for the blind.

Perhaps this will interest other readers.

Yours sincerely,
E. BOTES.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

THE new titles for officers of the Royal Air Force which were published on August 4th last, are to be brought into use in the Force immediately. A perusal of the list of these titles together with their corresponding ranks in the Navy and the Army may be of interest to our readers:—

AIR FORCE.	NAVY.	ARMY.
Marshal of the Air	Admiral of the Fleet	Field-Marshal
Air Chief-Marshal	Admiral	General
Air Marshal	Vice-Admiral	Lieut.-General
Air Vice-Marshal	Rear-Admiral	Major-General
Air Commodore	Commodore	Brig.-General
Group Captain	Captain	Colonel
Wing Commander	Commander	Lieut.-Colonel
Squadron Leader	Lt.-Commander	Major
Flight-Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Captain
Flying Officer (or Observer)	Sub-Lieutenant	Lieutenant
Pilot Officer	Midshipman	Sec. Lieutenant

WHY NOT MORE SUNSHINE HOMES?

From "Daily Sketch," July 9, 1919.



YOU know what a delightful "finish" to an arrival at a pleasant country house it makes when the hall-door is thrown open at the sound of your wheels and two or three children run down the steps? There are certain pleasant-faced houses, set round with comfortable tree-bound and rose-decorated lawns, which lead one to expect this perfection of welcomes. They are so obviously the right sort of houses for babies to live in. One of these is Sunshine House, Chorley Wood.

And, true to promise, as we drove up, two eager little figures hurried down the steps, a pink tuniced little boy clinging to one side of the porch, a blue clad one to the other. But on the lowest step they paused, and each slowly stretched forth an appealing pink hand.

"Is it a motor-car?" came in Tommy's serious little voice.

"I want to see the car," said excited little Jimmy.

They were both blind.

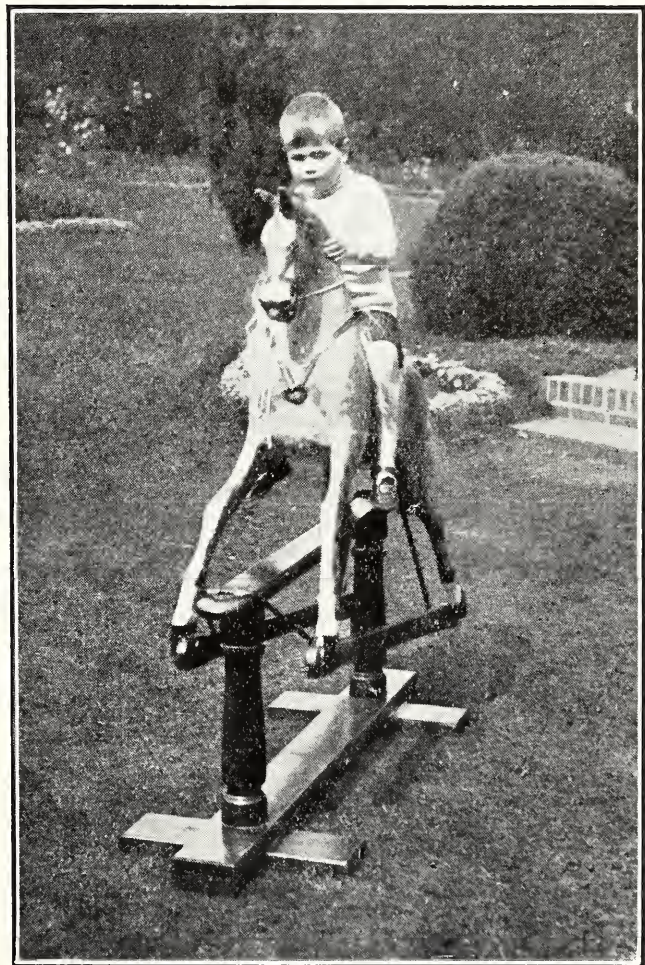
To Jimmy "seeing" a car is having his hand placed on its wheels, on its door, to feel the beating of its engine, to smell the petrol and the oil. He isn't shy about letting a stranger "show" him this exciting marvel. Neither is Tommy. You cannot help a little thrill of pride at this until you realise that these friendly little creatures are not distressed at not knowing you because of the appalling fact that in the ordinary baby sense they don't know anybody. They have never seen the adoring smile which even the poorest slum child gets as his birthright.

All the babies at Sunshine House are blind. There are twenty-five of them—that is as many as the house will hold—and it is the only place in the country to which blind children under five years old can go when the circumstances of their parents make it

impossible for them to have the best care and training at home.

"A blind babies' home!" It suggests darkness, even squalor, and intense melancholy, but there is none of these at Sunshine House. Every baby is exquisitely cared for, and dressed with a prettiness that is not even uniform. The little smocks and tunics are of different colours, and adorned with embroidered flowers.

Little Esther has a green bow on her gold hair—and knows it to her own satisfaction. Little Eric has nursery rhyme



IN THE GARDENS OF SUNSHINE HOUSE: A LITTLE BLIND BABY ENJOYS A RIDE ON THE ROCKING-HORSE.

creatures printed on his bib—and knows it, too. All the house is white and flowery.

No Royal nursery has better little chairs and tables and white cots or gayer washing-rugs on its toy-strewn nursery floor.

Even the meal-time gong is an especially musical one, for sweet sounds are more to these blind babies than to your sighted ones.

"But why? What's the use?" may be asked. "When the unfortunate children can't see, any kind of house would do." The adult blind will correct you in that fallacy. They say that they can sense beauty and order and cheerfulness in a way they are unable to explain to our understanding. You can explain it, if you like, by saying that what those in the dark "sense" is a reflection of the cheerfulness of the sighted people about them who are impressed through their eyes by the beauty and fitness of rooms and gardens, but whatever the reason, the atmosphere of Sunshine House is a happy one.

As much as possible the babies are taught to live as sighted children do. They sit at little tables and behave with amazing decorum at

meals. There is less noise, less racket of cups and plates, fewer calamities with jammy fingers than in a normal nursery.

There are kindergarten lessons almost like those of a normal baby class. There are the usual toys—rabbits and bears and balls, a rocking-horse, and, best of all, a gramophone. One of the dullest babies knows the names of the gramophone tunes, and sits chuckling deeply at who knows what visions in his darkness, so long as the merry rhythm goes on.

Tommy knows his way all up and down the big house. He can even grope round the night nurseries and tell you to which

baby each white-railed cot belongs. Tommy will be able to make his life worth living later on, thanks to the start he is getting at Sunshine House. Little June, the only baby who turns her head as you go near, is able to see a little. Already she can see well enough to slip the crusts she doesn't like across to Billy, her table-mate. With the constant care of Sunshine House she may be well enough to go away soon. Already the directors are looking thoughtfully at her, and wondering how soon she will make room for a still more pathetic baby.

For remember there is only room for twenty-five babies out of the hundreds who should be cared for, whose present fate in poor, harassed homes is too tragic to bear thinking about.

Who will help to open more Sunshine

Homes for the babies in the dark?

Only the money is needed. The National Institute for the Blind, under whose direction Sunshine House is carried on, will provide the organisation. The money should be easy to get.

If every happy mother who has known the

joy of seeing the first gleam of recognition in her own babies' eyes would send what she could as a thank-offering, the blind babies would be saved. If well-to-do parents of a happy brood would send a shilling or a pound or, if they like, ten pounds, for every bright eye in their own nurseries and school-rooms, the results would be tremendous.

Will they? Will you? Send the money to Sir Washington Ranger, M.A., D.C.L., Hon. Secretary of the Blind Babies' Home, National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, London, W.1. And many thanks.
E. S. H.



IN THE GARDENS OF SUNSHINE HOUSE: THE DUCHESS OF BEDFORD PLAYING "RING-A-ROSES" WITH THE BLIND BABIES.

STATE AID FOR THE BLIND.

FOLLOWING are the principal regulations governing the distribution of the grants payable to approved agencies in respect of :

1. Workshops for the Blind.
2. Provision of Assistance to Home-Workers.
3. Homes and Hostels for the Blind.
4. Home Teaching.
5. Book Production.
6. Counties' Associations.
7. Miscellaneous.

Grants will first be payable to an approved agency in respect of work done during the nine months commencing 1st July, 1919. Thereafter grants will be paid for financial years commencing 1st April. During the period or year there will be paid an instalment of the grant for that period or year.

In any decision as to payment of grant, regard will be had to the standard of efficiency of the work in respect of which a grant is claimed. The premises and work of the agency shall be subject to inspection at all reasonable times by any of the Minister's officers. Its records and registers shall, when so required, be available for inspection by the Minister or his officers.

The agency shall be under the management of a properly constituted Committee of Management, with duly appointed officers, including a Secretary and Treasurer. The accounts must be properly audited.

Any person in respect of whom grant is claimed shall be a person who is blind within the definition adopted by the Minister, that is to say, too blind to perform work for which eyesight is essential.

A grant will not be payable in aid of any service in respect of which grants are payable by the Board of Education or other Government Department.

Workshops.—Grant will be payable to the agency at a rate not exceeding £20 per head per annum in respect of the total number of workshop employees in regular employment throughout any period.

The recognized standards of the trade in which the workshop employees are engaged, so far as they relate to rates of pay, bonus, hours of labour, and holidays, must be observed by the agency. In no case may the hours of labour exceed forty-eight hours per week.

Provision of Assistance to Home Workers.—The Agency shall submit to the Minister, in the first instance, a scheme whereby suitable provision is made for the care, assistance and supervision of home workers, and the Minister may, before accepting any scheme, require such modifications to be made in it as he thinks fit.

Grant will be payable at a rate not exceeding £20 per annum in respect of each home-worker included in a scheme accepted by the Minister.

A grant will be payable in aid of the initial expenditure incurred by the agency in the provision of the tools and equipment necessary to enable the home-worker included in a scheme accepted by the Minister to follow his occupation.

The grant will normally be half of the expenditure incurred after the consent of the Minister to the expenditure has been obtained.

The agency shall supply to the Minister such reports upon the working of an accepted scheme as he may from time to time require.

Homes and Hostels.—Grant shall be payable to a Home at a rate not exceeding £13 per annum and to a Hostel at a rate not exceeding £5 per annum in respect of each of the blind persons regularly resident throughout any period in the Home or Hostel.

Home Teachers.—Grants will be payable at a rate not exceeding £78 per annum in respect of each Home Teacher employed by an agency.

Book Production.—Grant at the rate of 2s. 6d. per volume, and at the rate of 2d. per copy of a magazine, periodical or sheet music

will be payable in respect of all literature produced in embossed type for the blind by an approved agency.

Counties Associations of Agencies.—Grant will be payable to a Counties Association at a rate not exceeding £20 for every 100 blind persons resident in the Counties Association area and registered on the 30th September in any year in the central register kept at the Ministry of Health.

A copy of the full circular which was issued by the Ministry of Health on August 7th can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway. Price 3d. net.

SEAL OF HONOUR.

THERE is a race among employers to be the first to secure the "seal of honour" for agreeing to employ five per cent. of disabled soldiers in response to the King's appeal. The first request to be enrolled made direct to the Ministry of Labour came from St. Dunstan's Hostel, and it is likely that if any earlier notifications were made to the various local employment committees who have the scheme in hand they will be waived in favour of St. Dunstan's.

Arrangements are now perfected for the bestowal of the right to use the seal of honour on employers who participate in the scheme. The operation will be as follows:—The employer sends in his pledge to the local employment committee, who send him a certificate in acknowledgment. That entitles him to have dies made of the seal and use it on his stationery. His name is forwarded to the Ministry of Labour in London, where it will be engrossed on a permanent national scroll of honour.

Employers should note that the term "disabled" does not necessarily mean "unable to work"—for thousands of men disabled in the military sense are now doing useful and remunerative work.

OOOO

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

FREE TRAMWAY RIDES.

ABOUT 520 blind people are the honoured guests of the citizens of Bradford so far as free rides in the Corporation tramcars are concerned. Not all are absolutely stone blind, but they are all deprived of the advantages of sight to an extent which the physicians include under the term "blindness." The certificate which entitles them to a free pass is obtained from the Royal Institution for the Blind, and it is claimed that Bradford, if not actually the first city to make this concession, was at least one of the earliest. As early as April 29th, 1907, a deputation representing the blind people of Bradford waited upon the Tramways Committee of the Corporation and asked for passes. At this date the Committee compromised by granting permission for the blind to travel at half the ordinary fares. Afterwards, however, the blind were granted free travelling, and the trams have been wonderfully helpful in enabling these afflicted ones to get about. To this concession is attributed much of the dexterity which the blind people of the city have acquired in the art of travelling alone.

OOOO

POSTAL PLAYFULNESS.

IN the days of the war the Postmaster-General evolved a time-saving system whereby London districts were sub-divided into numbered areas, and sorting correspondingly facilitated. Two instances of mis-delivery, however, took place recently.

In the first case the letter was addressed to "W.1," but wandered off on a trip to the West Indies. The second letter quite overshadowed the record of its companion. The address "N.13," was misread as "N.B.," and the epistle first went to Scotland. Evidently wishing to see more of the world, it decided to cross the Atlantic and visit New Brunswick. After a two-months' sojourn it returned home, and reached its originally intended destination—prosaic Palmer's Green.

OOOO

MISTRESS: "I'm sorry you want to leave, Ellis. Are you going to better yourself?"

MAID: "No, m'm; I'm going to be married."
Punch.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.



THE annual report of the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind for the year ending 31st March, 1919, contains much of interest. Among the varied activities of the Institute we draw the attention of our readers to the following salient features:—

The opening of Sunshine House, the Institute's first Home for Blind Babies, was one of the events of 1918. The Home contains its full complement of twenty-five children, and as a detailed notice of the Home has already been given in a previous number of *The Beacon*, we need not enlarge on this topic at the present time. It is to be hoped that Sunshine House will be the pioneer of many other such homes, for the case of the little blind baby is one that speaks for itself.

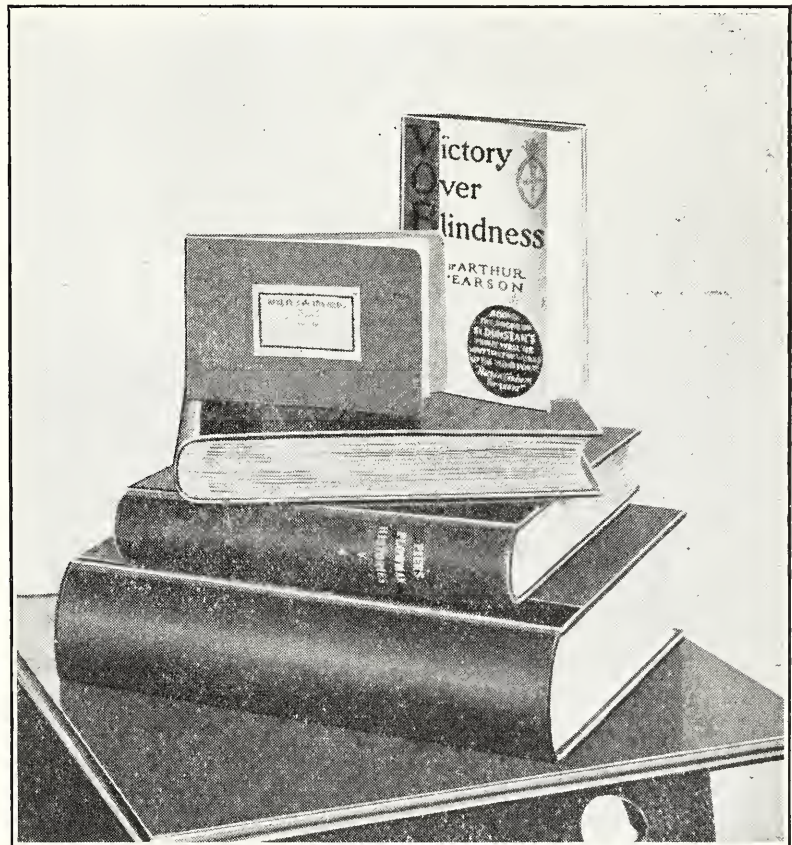
Higher Education is a subject of paramount importance to us all and it is gratifying to read that the Council of the Institute has set aside £750 per annum to be used towards meeting the fees of students in colleges and schools for the blind.

But just as one cannot make bricks without straw, neither can any man or woman go through life without the mental stimulus to be derived from literature. Without the power to read, a man is indeed a creature to be pitied, and the Institute's output of Braille and Moon literature is one that speaks for itself.

During the year 1918, 188,218 bound volumes, pamphlets, newspapers, and musical publications were issued in Braille. As regards Moon type, 12,494 books, pamphlets, and magazines were issued. Important grants have been made to the National

Library for the Blind, both in Braille and Moon; when expressed in money value the contributions to the National Library alone means a sum of £2,000.

It is extremely gratifying to learn that for Lady Pearson's Blind Musicians' Concert



Our illustration shows the various kinds of Braille books issued by the National Institute. The one at the bottom is known as Large Interpoint and measures 13½ ins. x 11 ins. It takes two volumes this size to contain the same matter as is contained in the ink-print copy of "Victory over Blindness," shown in the picture, which is an ordinary Crown Octavo book (7½ ins. x 5 ins.). Standing next to "Victory over Blindness" is the smallest size Braille book now produced; this is known as a Miniature size and is 4 ins. x 7½ ins. The Braille dot in this book is also slightly smaller than in the ordinary Braille book, and the book contains the story of "Beauty and the Beast," and is one of a series of little Primers that is being produced for schools. The book on which these two is resting is known as a Pocket-size and measures 11 ins. x 7½ ins. The book immediately below this one is known as the Intermediate size and measures 11 ins. x 11 ins.

Party the year 1918 will be a record one. Concerts numbering 321 were given during the year and the splendid sum of £25,263 was realised. The Concert Party is an organisation attached to the Institute and is devoted to the interests of the blinded soldier and sailor. There is a fine picturesqueness about this thoroughly practical way of the blind helping the blind.

The Carol League is another interesting organisation of the Institute. This arranges for parties to go out Carol singing at Christmas time, with the result that a fine old English custom has received a great impetus, while substantial financial aid has accrued in consequence, both to the blind community in general and the blinded soldiers.

Massage is a very important branch of the Institute's work. The School is still being entirely devoted to the training of blinded soldiers, and it is gratifying to be able to state that up to the present time sixty-one blinded soldiers have successfully passed the examination of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseurs. The whole of these have been in the first case appointed to Military and other Hospitals, and many of them have already passed through this stage and started in private practice with great success. But the civilian blind students have not been forgotten. The training of civilian students, by arrangement with the National Institute, has been undertaken by one of the London Hospitals, and five students qualified during the past year. The Institute has also arranged for the training of women students at a school approved by the Incorporated Society, and the five students who entered in 1918 for the Massage Examination were all successful. At the present moment civilian male and female students who have successfully qualified number twenty-seven. They have been very materially assisted by the National Institute in the way of fees, books and apparatus. In connection with the Massage Department a medico-scientific library for students has been inaugurated. It contains forty-eight Braille volumes for the use of blind students, who are as well, or even better supplied with literature than sighted students of massage. Free copies of all works required by students are supplied.

By special arrangement of the National Institute arrangements are made for women

students to stay during their massage training at its Residential Club for Blind Women, 40, Langham Street, London, W.1; a guide is also provided by the Institute for these students.

The Residential Club has now been in existence for two years and the average number of residents during the year 1918 was thirty-eight, of whom not more than three were sighted, all being employed in different branches of the National Institute for the Blind. This club for blind girl workers has met with deserved success.

The Home Teaching Branch has also steadily progressed. With the aid of grants totalling £2,487 from the National Institute, and one of £90 from Gardner's Trust for The Blind, it has employed thirty-one blind persons as teachers and visitors. The number on the register is 3,803. Of these 250 have learnt to read by touch, and many have been taught knitting, netting, chair-caning, string-bag making, and other occupations by which it is possible for the blind to earn a small income in the home. Teachers have been started in five additional centres, viz., Barrow-in-Furness, Ashford, Bridgwater, Cardiff and Portsmouth.

In the last report mention was made of "The Cedars," Chorley Wood, Herts, a beautiful house standing in grounds of fifty acres, which had been presented to the Institute through the beneficence of one of the Vice-Presidents, Mr. J. H. Batty, to be a College for the Higher Education of Blind Girls. Another very generous gift to the Institute has been Ebley Mansion, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire—a spacious and admirably designed house, standing in grounds of eight acres, and presented to the Institute by Mr. T. H. Mordey, of Dominion Buildings, Cardiff. This house will be utilized in connection with one of the departments of the Institute's work. Still another house, "Bannow," St. Leonards-on-Sea, has been purchased by the Dickens Fellowship as a Convalescent Home for Blinded Soldiers. This building will be held in trust by the Institute and the Dickens Fellowship, to whose President (Mr. W. Walter Crotch) the warmest thanks are due for the whole-hearted way in which he has worked towards securing this new home.

A letter has been received from the Local Government Board to express the gratitude of the Board for the large quantities of games, such as dominoes, cards, etc., which

have been presented by the Institute to the blind inmates of the Poor Law Institutions in London and the Provinces. It is interesting to be able to record that ninety-two Unions, twenty-six in London and sixty-six in the country, have been supplied with sets of games, 325 sets of dominoes and 324 packs of cards having been supplied. It requires little imagination to realise how much these games will be appreciated amongst those who have so little pleasure in their lives.

"Money talks," so we are told, and the Civilian After-Care Branch of the Institute has small reason to complain of the work done on this very important side of the Institute's work. £8,594 has been expended in training fees, special grants to meet times of difficulty, in the relief of distress and the assistance of trades. Opportunities have been found for forty-five persons for training, seventeen have been sent to Convalescent Homes, and permanent homes have been found for seven. Eleven expensive surgical appliances have been provided, while 500 visits have been paid by our representatives. At the request of the Local Government Board the After-Care Department undertook and carried out a system of organisation for the payment of extra profits, allowed by the Ministry of Food, to all blind tea agents who were not drawing their supplies from certain recognised sources, with the result that extra profits amounting to £400 resulted, up to the time when tea restrictions were removed.

The Local Government Board was also supplied with a complete list of all the blind in England and Wales known to the Institute and its branches. This involved the collection of names from the various departments, while by a special system of card-indexing, the names and addresses were tabulated alphabetically, a list of over 11,000 blind people being duly sent in by the date appointed.

The sales *dépôt* of the After-Care Department announces that goods made by the blind and sold there amounted approximately to £10,500. When it is realised that the blind worker gets full retail prices for his goods, and that the After-Care Department has on its books a total of 4,050 blind persons, 1,068 of these being new cases dealt with for the first time during the year under review, it will be understood how greatly this branch has developed.

As regards the settlement and after-care of blinded soldiers and sailors, there were at the end of March 695 men in training at St. Dunstan's and its annexes, while over 600 have passed through their course of training and have been settled at their home industries or in business in various parts of the country. There are still a considerable number of men under treatment in London and out-lying hospitals for whom accommodation will be provided when convalescent. The Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' After-Care Department provides men, at cost price, with any materials they may require for their trades, assists them in marketing their goods, both locally and centrally, and employs a staff of visitors and local agents skilled in the various occupations men follow, to visit them and give them technical advice and assistance. Funds are provided from which allowances are made in cases of sickness or business difficulties, and a special fund, called the Blinded Soldiers' Children Fund, exists for the purpose of providing a weekly allowance for children born to blinded soldiers after their discharge—such children being unprovided for by the Pensions Ministry. The After-Care Department acts in a treble capacity, as a universal provider, an employment bureau, and a centre from which advice and assistance, whether of a technical, business or private nature, can be obtained. The future welfare of blinded soldiers will be in the care of the National Institute for the Blind, who have secured to St. Dunstan's an excellent site in the west-end of London, almost adjoining the present building, on which offices will be erected, and from which the After-Care Scheme will be directed and controlled.

As regards the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Toronto, this Institution is now federated with the National Institute, with aims and objects similar to those of the London establishment.

In addition to the seven Branches that already exist, or have been arranged for, it has been decided to divide up the remainder of England into seven more Branches, as given below, with the result that the whole of England and Wales and the Isle of Man will be covered by fourteen Branches, each with suitable offices, secretary, and staff:—

East Midland Branch (with offices in Leicester), comprising the counties of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire,

Rutlandshire, Northamptonshire, and Huntingdonshire.

Eastern Branch (with offices in Cambridge), comprising the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, and Essex.

Home Counties Branch (with offices in Oxford), comprising the counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hertfordshire, and Middlesex.

Metropolitan Branch (with offices in London), comprising the County of London.

South-Eastern Branch (with offices in Tunbridge Wells), comprising the counties of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex.

Western Branch (with offices in Bristol), comprising the counties of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and Hampshire.

South-Western Branch (with offices in Exeter), comprising the counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall.

A perusal of the audited statements of account shows that substantial grants have been made to institutions and societies for the blind.

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

WE are most anxious to be of service to blind tuners, not only in the way of finding them posts in factories, in show-rooms, and as outdoor tuners, but also in the direction of helping them to build up their private connections, and in assisting them to get repairs executed. We shall, therefore, be glad to hear from all those who have not yet registered their names, and it would be a help to us if all tuners, when leaving their institution, would apply at once for a registration form.

Music Teachers.—Similarly, we shall be glad to hear from organists and music teachers, not only for registration purposes, but also as to their needs in the way of Braille music.

Musical Degrees.—It would be interesting and statistically valuable to have a list of all those who have taken musical degrees or diplomas, and it would help this object forward if all those who pass the higher examination would notify us of their success when it occurs.

H. C. WARRILOW.

REVISED PRICES.

AS mentioned in previous issues of *The Beacon* the National Institute for the Blind has found it necessary to revise the postage rates of many of their magazines. For the convenience of our readers we give the revised rates of subscription which will come into force in January, 1919.

INLAND.

	Year		Half Year		Quarter	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
"Braille Mail"	6	6	3	4	1	8
"Progress"	6	0	3	0	1	6
"Literary Journal"	12	0	6	0	3	0
"Massage Journal"	4	0	—	—	—	—
"Musical Magazine"	8	0	4	0	2	0
"Comrades"	4	0	2	0	1	0
"School Magazine" {	7	0	per one copy			
	13	0	,, two copies			
	19	0	,, three ,,			
	25	0	,, four ,,			
	31	0	,, five ,,			
"The Beacon" (Letterpress) ...	31	0	,, six ,,			
	3	0	— ... —			

ABROAD.

	Year		Half Year		Quarter	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
"Braille Mail"	8	8	4	4	2	2
"Progress"	8	0	4	0	2	0
"Literary Journal"	16	0	8	0	4	0
"Massage Journal"	7	0	—	—	—	—
"Musical Magazine"	12	0	6	0	3	0
"Comrades"	6	0	3	0	1	6
"School Magazine" {	11	0	per one copy			
	18	0	,, two copies			
	27	0	,, three ,,			
	36	0	,, four ,,			
	45	0	,, five ,,			
"The Beacon" (Letterpress) ...	48	0	,, six ,,			
	3	0	— ... —			

OOOO

A MAN with a funny story had visited a dozen newspaper offices, at all of which his joke had been declined. He plodded wearily homewards.

"There is such a thing as carrying a joke too far," he said.

SIGHTED BLINDNESS!



HOW extraordinary it is that so many fallacious ideas exist as to the mentality of blind people. There is quite a common feeling amongst those who have had no experience of intercourse with the blind that they are not quite normal, and well-meaning but ignorant folk will pass audible remarks about a blind person in the absolute conviction that he cannot hear what is being said. "Mischievous is wrought by want of thought as well as want of heart," and a tactless remark can often cause a hurt that is very slow to heal. A blind correspondent tells us of some of the remarks which have been addressed to her at odd times, and we quote them as fit illustrations to the above words:—

"Shortly after I lost my sight," she says, "I was buying a new frock. Of course, I wanted a fashionable one, but a well-meaning friend who kindly assisted me in my choice insisted that it was impossible for me to wear a dress with a low neck, as I was now blind. Some years have passed since then, but to this day I fail to grasp why loss of sight should necessarily bring in its train loss of interest in one's clothes." Our correspondent says she has often been asked how she was able to get from one room to another, to find the holes when lacing her shoes, etc., etc. She thinks that it is probable that a kindly spirit prompted these friends to ask such questions—also a feeling that they themselves could not have done these simple things had they been blind. "I have met," she says, "one or two people who were, in the ordinary sense of the word, helpless, but I attribute this to the fact that their own people around them were not gifted with insight and understanding." Unknowing people are apt to make the mistake of giving a blind person too much assistance, and this, of course, renders him more and more helpless, and therefore more and more apparently abnormal. Many blind

people bitterly resent these offers of help which appear to them so officious. A sighted friend of our correspondent who once offered to help a blind man was somewhat rudely repulsed, much to her annoyance. It made her feel, she declared, as if she would never again wish to offer help. It is, however, very probable that this man had had to put up with so many tactless but well-meant offers of help that day that he was feeling at war with the whole world.

Our correspondent does not wish to suggest that sightless people can afford to be entirely independent of the help of those who can see, but what she does object to is lack of tact and real sympathy, and to the prevalence of the idea that loss of sight entails loss of reasoning faculty. She herself feels exactly as she did in every respect as when she could see. "In the course of my work as a masseuse in a military hospital, I was greatly struck by the attitude of the men towards me. They never in the slightest degree, or in one single instance, made me feel that I was afflicted by Providence, as some people are so fond of saying, but we used to laugh at our different handicaps, and thoroughly enjoy helping each other. Many of these men could not be considered highly intellectual, yet they seemed to well understand that I was like one of them and was trying to make the best of a rather annoying handicap. My experiences with them have made me realise more than ever that what we all—blind and seeing alike—want is nothing but a fellow-feeling for each other, and that we should not let such a trivial thing as loss of sight stand in the way."

OOOO

CUSTOMER: "Are these shoes too far gone for repair?"

BOOTMAKER: "No, sir, I don't think so. A new pair of uppers, with soles and heels, will make them all right. The laces seem fairly good!"

SECOND MEETING OF TUNERS.

ON Thursday, September 18th, the second meeting of tuners was held in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute. In addition to the tuners present, Mr. Speakman again represented the Joint Committee of the National Amalgamated Furniture Trades' Association, and the Organ Builders and Musical Instrument Makers' Society was represented by Mr. Collier. A representative of the latter Society was asked to attend, because it includes a number of the blind on its register of membership. Mr. Purse was in the chair, and after assuming that all present had read the account of the previous meeting, which appeared in *Progress*, *The Beacon*, and the *Braille Musical Magazine*, he proceeded at once to invite discussion upon the report drawn up by the Committee of seven appointed on July 17th. The Committee had held two meetings, Mr. Warrilow acting as Chairman and Secretary. The report was then considered in detail, and after some small alterations had been made, it was proposed by Mr. Gibbs and seconded by Mr. Watmore, that its recommendations should be adopted. The report was unanimously accepted, and the revised form reads as follows:—

1. It is the opinion of this Committee that a qualified blind tuner should demand the minimum wage when applying for a factory post, and that this demand should be backed by his Trade Union; but if, on account of lack of factory experience, or through insufficient training, he should fail to reach the required standard when taking the factory test, then the amount of his wage should be determined by the Shop Committee and the employer. In the case of any difficulty arising, however, an appeal should be made to the Joint Committee.
2. That when this Committee confers with the Joint Committee, the latter should be asked to allow a representative of the Organ Builders' Society to be present.
3. Then when tuners are sent to factories as part of their tuning course, they should always receive remuneration, the actual amount to be determined

by the Shop Committee and the employer.

4. That factory experience should form part of the tuning course in every institution for the blind where tuning is taught, and that in cases where there are no factories in the immediate neighbourhood of a particular institution, every effort should be made to send pupils to places where such experience may be gained.
5. That the last two recommendations should be sent to all institutions for the blind where tuning is taught, strongly emphasising the importance of both points.
6. That a tuner, upon leaving his institution, should be informed of prevailing trade conditions, and that the advantages of joining a trade union should be pointed out to him. This might be done either by this Committee, or by the Tuning Board of the National Institute for the Blind.

In order to facilitate matters in this direction it was suggested that institutions for the blind should be asked to send to the National Institute the names of all tuners when they have completed their course of training.

In the discussion upon the first recommendation the question of speed was brought up, both with regard to a factory test tuning, and also when a post has been obtained; but it was felt that nothing very definite could be said, the standard in one factory being quite different from that in another. It was therefore impossible to lay down any rule as to how many pianos a tuner ought to be able to get through in a day. He must use his own judgment and adjust himself to the requirements of the particular factory where he is employed.

Mr. Speakman and Mr. Collier signified their willingness to co-operate in any way that they could to further the cause of blind tuners, and it is to be hoped, as blind tuners become increasingly alive to their own interests and increasingly aware of the value of united effort, that substantial good will come of these deliberations.

H. C. WARRILOW.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—No. 35.

NOVEMBER, 1919.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

EDITORIAL.



WOULD you rather be stone deaf or stone blind? Supposing, of course, that you had to choose one or other of these terrible alternatives. It may perhaps seem idle to speculate on such a subject, and yet it is out of no spirit of idle curiosity that we venture to discuss this subject this month. The five years of war which brought such horrible calamities in its train may have had the effect of blunting our susceptibilities by the mere reason of the fact that there is a great deal of truth in the old adage "Familiarity breeds contempt." At the same time familiarity with all the varied phases of suffering that have of necessity been forced upon us, should assuredly make us re-write the proverb, and say rather that "Familiarity breeds understanding." It was an Eastern sage who said, "The greatest ill I ever had I never had," and there is a great deal of truth in the paradox, for no matter how great the misfortunes that overtake us in this world, there is always assuredly some worse one from which we have been mercifully spared.

In one of the old Norse Sagas you will find the statement "Better be blind than buried"—a vigorous acceptance from a vigorous people of a handicap which is as severe as is well possible to imagine.

But to return to the controversy as to whether the greatest misfortune which could befall our physical senses is to become totally blind or stone deaf, we should like to

quote from an article that was published in the *London Globe* a month or two ago. We make no apology for printing the article in full, and will let it speak for itself:—

"Five years of war have brought such a speculation painfully near direct experience, for its scope has been enlarged by the terrible consequences, popularly viewed as shell-shock, which are the penalty of the concentration of modern artillery fire, where-with we have become distressingly familiar in every direction, while the maimed and mutilated relics of 'man's inhumanity to man' are to be seen in every parish. One of the most touching lessons learned from entertaining the British Tommies when released from hospital is that they detest being taken notice of or fussed over. Equal sympathy for each other is felt by the patient who has lost his sight and the patient who has lost his limbs, as each believes his companion's lot to be a heavier one than his own.

"Lowell had the greatest respect for old wives' tales as embodying the concentrated observation of many generations. The traditional belief, entitled on this account to the greatest respect, is that blindness is a greater calamity than deafness, but it is borne with patience and serenity which is not observable in the deaf, who are usually irritable and suspicious. The contrast of disposition is open to a very simple explanation. Just as the congenitally blind or the congenitally deaf are in a degree happy because they have had no experience to measure for them the extent of their loss, the blind man is mercifully unconscious of what he is missing. There is a merciful veil which cuts him off from the knowledge of the things that the

men around him are seeing. On the other hand, the deaf man, to an extent that is exasperating, and even maddening, sees all that is going on around him, and is unable to find any clue to what is outspread before his eyes.

"A recent advocate on the opposite side to the accepted view of this comparison is a spokesman of blind men whom one thinks of only with the profoundest respect, Sir Arthur Pearson. He has not only faced the deprivation of sight with fine courage, but his own disability has merely inspired him with the truest altruism to evolve the St. Dunstan's organisation to make good their loss to the men blinded in the war. He disclaims pity for the blind man because he is unable to see what he is doing in such intimate matters as dressing himself or finding his way about the house. To some extent I believe he is drawing our attention to what we do not realise. An ordinary man in putting on his garments or tying his necktie has an unconscious delicacy of touch to which he is far more indebted than to the glance at the looking-glass to which he is apt to give all the credit. If any reader will study his own habits in the light of what this remark suggests I think he will find the force of what Sir Arthur says. Again, does the ordinary man feel any particular difficulty, when the necessity arises, in dressing himself in the dark?

"Nevertheless, I believe that Sir Arthur Pearson merely illustrates the fine fortitude and patience which I regard as the noble endowment of the blind.

"He quotes a remarkable case which illustrates the spirit in which the blind disclaim pity for their deprivation. He mentions that the late Lord Leicester, after being totally blind for a number of years, had his sight restored by a fortunate operation. Subsequently he became totally deaf, and after some years he told Lord Cobham that his second affliction proved far more difficult to endure.

"It cannot by any form of reasoning be made out to have been greater, and I think the explanation obviously lies in the familiar proverb, 'What the eye does not see the heart does not grieve over.' There are other expressions of popular wisdom which have the same psychological effect, such, for instance, as 'Out of sight is out of mind.'

"I remember that many years ago a very ingenious writer, the Rev. H. R. Haweis,

bore his testimony to the same effect. In order to test the amount of suffering entailed by total deafness, he once stuffed his ears with cotton wool so effectively that he could hear nothing, and, without explanation, went into his wife's drawing-room. He found that the observations of the various callers at being unable to make him understand what they were saying to him, and their discussions with one another of what could be the explanation of his want of response, and, above all, the strain of being unable to understand what he saw they were saying about him, became so maddening that when the time came at which he had fixed for himself that this ordeal should end he frantically tore the wool from his ears to return to normal conditions. I can quite believe that this description was not exaggerated, for it is a common observation that deaf people are peculiarly sensitive, to an extent which does not worry other people, when friends at the other side of a room are talking about them, and are curiously anxious to have an explanation of a remark which was perhaps quite casual and unimportant."

OOOO

IN the October number of *The Blind*—that excellent little magazine which has been carried on for twenty-two years under the able editorship of Mr. Henry J. Wilson—we read with regret an Editorial farewell. The work that Mr. Wilson has done for the blind, and the long years of devotion dedicated to the cause, need no elaboration in these pages. Mr. Wilson has only recently recovered from a severe illness which, added, as he himself says, to the increasing burden of the years, necessitates the laying aside of work that he has carried on so long and so well. We venture to hope that Mr. Wilson will soon be completely restored to health.

OOOO

MR. W. H. THURMAN, who since December, 1908, has been General Superintendent and Secretary to the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, has recently resigned his post on his appointment as an Inspector of Institutions and Workshops for the Blind under the Ministry of Health. Mr. Thurman has been succeeded by Mr. R. G. Cowley, formerly an official of the Manchester Education Committee, and Mr. Cowley took up the duties of his new office on the 13th October.

CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.



THE Canadian National Institute for the Blind, which has now been in existence for over a year and a half, has issued its First Annual Report. The record of the Institute's activities during the first year of its life forms most interesting reading. The work has been of a varied nature. No fewer than eleven departments have been inaugurated, and there are now 734 members, of whom 578 are blind and 156 sighted. A monthly news-letter gives concise information regarding the happenings at the Institute. The eleven departments referred to consist of :—

1. Blinded Soldiers.
2. Registration.
3. Field Work.
4. Industrial Department for Men.
5. Industrial Department for Women.
6. Home Teaching.
7. Pearson Hall, a Residential Club for Blinded Soldiers.
8. The Library.
10. Women's Auxiliary.
11. Salesroom Department.

A Department of After-Care Work is also being organized.

Upwards of 125 Canadian soldiers lost their sight in the war. Some of these men have decided, for one reason or another, to remain in England, so that probably about 100 men will have returned to Canada when those now in training and in hospital in England will have gone back. In December, 1918, Pearson Hall was opened as a residential club for blinded soldiers ; it was formally inaugurated by Sir Arthur Pearson—from whom it received its name—in January of this year.

The registration of the blind, which is so important a background for the study of their problems, forms a most important department. It involves the notation, tabulation and classification of all obtainable essential

facts regarding the blind, such as cause of blindness, degree of sight, general mental, nervous and physical condition, training, occupation, experience, etc., for any given line of work, as well as the ordinary census facts.

Total Registration to date	1521
Males	926
Females	595
Active	386

The term Field Work is not an easy one to define. It combines both census work and social work. It is the function of the field worker to seek out new cases, to look up those referred to her, to report upon and frequently to definitely recommend concerning them. The Institute's field worker has personally come in official contact with 500 cases.

The term Industrial Department for Men to date is synonymous with the broom shop. In this department there are thirteen men upon the journeyman pay-roll and twelve in various stages of progress in their apprenticeship, in addition to the Supervisor of the Department, who is himself blind. The most up-to-date methods and machinery known to the broom manufacturer are employed.

The Industrial Department for Women has thus far been confined to one shop, where reed-basketry, machine sewing, rug-weaving and machine knitting are carried on.

The work of the Home Teacher is too well known to our readers to need explanation. The number of those who are receiving or who have received home teaching is 116.

The Canadian National Library for the Blind numbers 619 members. The average circulation of books and sheets of music is about 744. Carriage of books is absolutely free.

An important feature of the Canadian National Institute is the Prevention of Blindness campaign. Since assuming her duties in February the Institute's Prevention of Blindness nurse has come into contact with

fifty-four cases. Where help has been possible, either in increasing vision or conserving what remains, steps have been taken to see that these were obtained, and advice given as to their use. In other cases advice has been given as to treatment, care of the eyes and operation.

From the above brief account of the work of the Institute it will be seen that a good beginning has been made, despite the difficulties usually to be met with in building up a national organization.

The designation "Canadian National" has been adopted, and the Council expresses the determination to live up to all that the name implies.

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind is affiliated to the National Institute for the Blind, London.

ROCHDALE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND.

THE Committee of the Rochdale and District Society for Visiting and Instructing the Blind report a satisfactory year's work. Since the end of December, 1917, when the number of blind persons on the register was 118, six deaths occurred; one blind person left the district and twenty-one new names were added, bringing the number up to 132, of whom seventy-one are males and sixty-one females. There are twelve males and six females attending the various blind schools. The Society keeps in touch with all blind people in the district, partly by means of visits undertaken by lady members of the Committee, but chiefly through a regular system of visiting by the blind visitor and teacher. The total amount paid in pensions, grants and temporary relief during the past year to the blind of the district was about £535. Grants of pensions of £10 per year were received from the Worshipful Company of Painters and the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, and a pension of 10s. per week was received from Gardner's Trust.

OOOO

THE syllabus for the 1920 examinations of the College of Teachers for the Blind is now ready, and copies may be obtained from the Honorary Registrar, National Institute for the Blind.

NOVELTIES IN BRAILLE BOOK PRODUCTION.

THE National Institute has just published a number of books of a new and interesting kind. The number of Italian books available in printed Braille is very small, but there has just been added to the Institute's catalogue a story by Deamicis, entitled "Dagli Apennini Alle Ande." It describes how a boy of thirteen made his way from Italy to South America to find his mother, whom he at last discovered after many wanderings. The style is not difficult, and the book is published in a convenient size, containing nearly 170 pages.

An entirely new feature of the Institute's work is the publication of a number of miniature books in a small character Braille. So far these books are mainly confined to children's stories, but they serve as interesting specimens of the new type of Braille. The volumes are in every way admirable for neatness and compactness, the size being $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 7 in.

The "Gendre de Monsieur Poirier," by Emile Augier and Jules Sandeau, affords another example of a new departure in Braille book production. This volume contains a number of notes, occupying forty-eight pages. Having regard to the inconvenience incurred by turning to the end of a volume to consult notes, a pocket has been fitted to the book cover of the volume, and the notes have been printed separately and inserted therein. It is thus possible to have the text and notes open side by side and to refer from one to the other without the least difficulty.

OOOO

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND.

THE next Examination for Gardner Trust Scholarships, of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19, will be held on the 6th and 8th December. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the date of the examination, and must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years and be intending to remain resident. Applications should be made to the Principal on or before Monday, the 24th November.

THE ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFICATED BLIND MASSEURS.



VERY interesting gathering was held on the night of October 14th, when the recently formed Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs met for an inaugural dinner at the Holborn Restaurant.

Since the war a tremendous impetus has been given to massage as an occupation for blind people of both sexes, and this occasion was rendered especially interesting by the fact that the medical profession was very largely represented, which is a sure testimony that massage for the blind has come to stay.

Sir Arthur Pearson, as President of the Association, in a very interesting address, brought out one point which we think is worthy of consideration. He said that although the majority of those at the dinner consisted of soldiers who had been blinded in the war, he did not wish his hearers to suppose that he in any way disassociated the blind civilian masseurs present from the St. Dunstan's men who had come under his fatherly supervision. They were all members of the same brave army. He went on to speak of the splendid support he had had from the medical profession, and referred in terms of well-merited eulogy to the Vice-Presidents sitting with him at the table that night. These were:—

Colonel Sir Bruce Bruce-Porter, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Professor Wood Jones, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Arnold Lawson, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Colonel Mansell Moullin (R.A.M.C., T.) M.D., F.R.C.S.

Major A. W. Ormond (R.A.M.C., T.), F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Major W. H. Broad, M.D.

Dr. G. Murray Levick.

Fred Stoker, Esq., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

Cortlandt MacMahon, Esq., M.A.

The other Vice-Presidents, who were unfortunately unable to be present, were:—

The Bishop of London.

Sir Alfred Fripp, K.C.V.O.

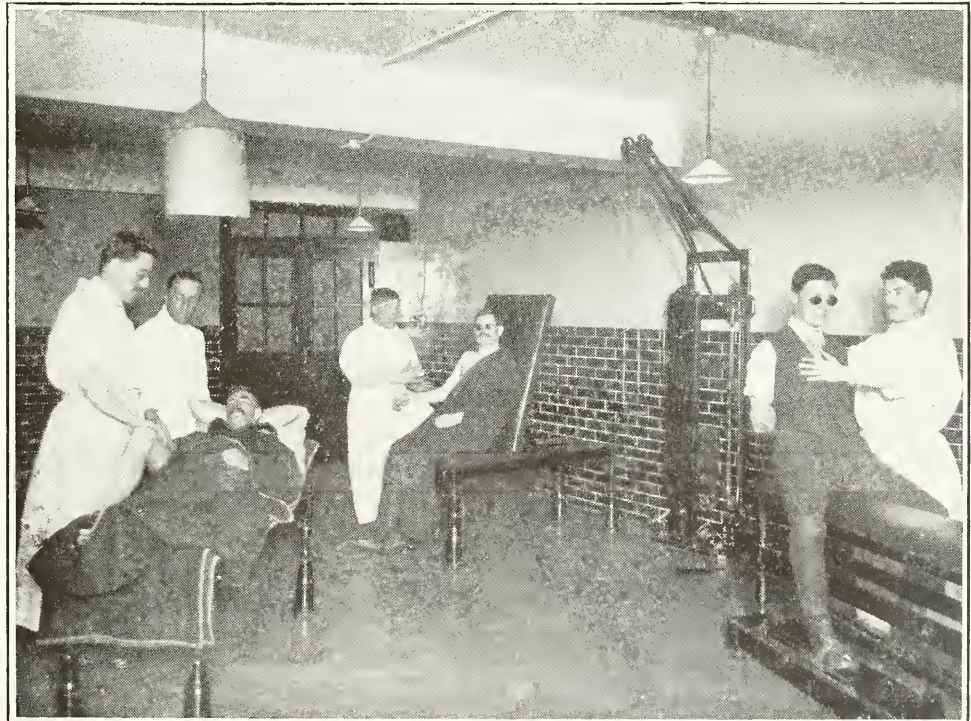
Sir Robert Jones, C.B.

W. G. Howarth, Esq., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sir Alfred Pearce Gould.

C. R. C. Lyster, Esq., M.R.C.S.

J. S. Risien Russell, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P.; but he had received letters from them conveying their cordial appreciation and desire



BLIND MASSEURS AT WORK.

for co-operation in the movement. He had also received apologies from Capt. Ian Fraser (Manager of the After-Care of St. Dunstan's) and Mr. Henry Stainsby (Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind) regretting their inability to be present.

Sir Bruce Bruce-Porter, in the course of a short but telling speech, made one point which is worthy of mentioning. He said that the fact that a man had been severely wounded in battle did not necessarily make him a hero, his heroism was proved afterwards by the manner in which he set himself to surmount the terrible handicap imposed upon him by physical disablement, and he felt that he could say that all those men present were heroes in the best sense of the word, as their achievements and their courage proved beyond question.

The Chairman of the Association, Mr. Percy Linney Way, who was also one of the guests of the evening, in proposing the toast of Sir Arthur, paid fine tribute to the part Sir Arthur had himself taken on behalf not only of the soldiers at St. Dunstan's, but for the blind community in general. Speaking himself as a blind man, Mr. Way alluded to the wonderful change of public attitude brought about by Sir Arthur's vigorous and forceful personality. Sir Arthur was one of the great pioneers in a cause that all present had deeply at heart, the cause of the blind worker, who was now beginning to realise that, given intelligent sympathy and co-operation, many fields of industry hitherto considered the special prerogative of the sighted were now open also to the blind worker.

The company numbered over fifty, thirty-five of whom were blinded soldier masseurs who had been trained at St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind. The evening was rendered the more enjoyable by the kind co-operation of a number of well-known theatrical artists, among them being Mr. Peter Bernard, Mr. John West, the Treharne Trio and Mr. Jack Friedman. The efforts of these artists were received with the utmost enthusiasm.

oooo

MR. C. SHAW, Master of the Mary Ann Scott Home and Workshops for the Blind, Hayesleigh (a department of Henshaw's Blind Asylum), has been appointed Manager of the Leeds United Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, in the place of Mr. J. B. Meeson, who has resigned.

BRIGHTON SALE OF WORK.

THE Blind Relief and Visiting Society (Brighton, Hove and District), which is a branch of the National Institute for the Blind, held its annual sale of work on the 15th October. The Rev. Hugh Shearer presided, and was supported on the platform by Mr. Mowatt (a member of the Committee of the National Institute for the Blind), and Mrs. Allen West, who opened the sale.

Mr. Mowatt, in an address, urged the great need for helping the blind. He said that although wages had increased this was of little benefit, owing to the high prices of food and living generally. He knew of families who had to subsist on only £1 per week.

Mrs. Allen West made a short and sympathetic little speech previous to declaring the sale open. She was presented with a flower-stand containing a spray of pink carnations by one of the blind workers.

Perhaps the most interesting of the many stalls, which were most tastefully set out, was the one devoted entirely to articles made by the blind workers, and during the afternoon some practical demonstrations of their work were given. Knitted work and crochet articles were excellent and in great variety, and these included ladies' and children's garments of all sorts. Fancy articles and many charming knick-knacks were on some of the stalls, while fruit, vegetables, flowers, and sweets made a good show. Small tables for tea occupied one end of the hall. Musical selections by the Richmond Trio added to the brightness of the proceedings, and a most enjoyable concert was given in the evening,

oooo

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

ALRIK LUNDBERG.

[We have received from Herr Harald Thilander, Majorsgatan 12, Stockholm, Sweden, a short biography of Herr Alrik Lundberg, which we have much pleasure in presenting to our readers. Herr Lundberg's work for the blind is not unknown in this country, and those who have met him and heard his eloquent addresses at the International Conferences held in England will welcome a short account of his life.—EDITOR.]



THE current year (1919) witnesses the completion of thirty years' most useful work by "De Blindas Förening" (the Blind Association), and we take this opportunity of giving a few biographical notes concerning the Swedish gentleman who has made this Association what it now is.

"De Blindas Förening" is the centre of every kind of work for the blind in Sweden—the federation of all the Swedish industrial blind. It is the largest and most beneficial federation of the blind in Scandinavia, and, as we have already stated, it owes its unique position, its importance and its many spheres of utility to one man, himself blind, who is truly the idol of the entire Swedish blind community—our hero and chief.

His name is Alrik Lundberg. That name is assuredly known to the readers of this journal.

Jacob Alrik Lundberg first saw the light in Stockholm, on February 20th, 1867. He was the son of a merchant, J. Lundberg, his mother's name being Caroline Christine von Schewen. Alrik Lundberg received his elementary education at the Katarina Grammar School in Stockholm, where he was a very promising student. But he had only attained his eleventh year when a sad misfortune deprived him of his sight for the remainder of his life. This was, indeed, a very severe blow, and young Lundberg was reduced to the unenviable position of continuing his quest for knowledge through the medium of the sense of hearing. However, little daunted by this serious handicap, he undertook a course of instruction at the South High

School in Stockholm, and subsequently continued his studies under the guidance of private tutors. Among other achievements he acquired an extensive lingual knowledge, which afterwards stood him in good stead at the numerous Congresses and Conferences held in Sweden and elsewhere, where he, as the accredited representative of the Swedish blind, earnestly and eloquently pleaded their cause and made excellent suggestions for improving their conditions of life. Mr. Lundberg has consecrated his whole life to the service of his blind brothers and sisters. In the tragic occurrence which, in his childhood, robbed him of his powers of vision, he believed that he discerned the guiding hand of Providence beckoning him to his life's work. "I would rejoice over my misfortune," he once said, "if through it others could be rendered happier."

Mr. Lundberg's principal activities in furthering the welfare of the blind are closely associated with his post as president of "De Blindas Förening". This association was established in 1889, and the subject of our sketch was elected a member of the committee in 1891; and since 1902 he has exercised the functions of president. Under his able leadership this union has developed by leaps and bounds, and has become the centre of the Swedish philanthropic societies for the blind. Thanks to his benign influence, his untiring labours, and the sympathy and devotion of those whom he continually inspires by his dominating personality, Mr. Lundberg has succeeded in collecting thousands and thousands of pounds, which in many ways has become most helpful to the blind. From the small capital of 900 kronor (£44 10s.) the assets of the association have gradually increased, and they now represent a value of a million kronor (£55,000). These assets comprise buildings, establishments, funds for aiding the blind, etc. Besides this, owing chiefly to its president, between the years 1911 and 1914, "De Blindas Förening" has enjoyed an annual State grant of 25,000 kronor (£1,350), and, from 1914, 35,000 kronor (£1,900) per

annum. In connection with the federation Mr. Lundberg has founded a sick relief fund, personally collecting the necessary financial resources. By means of this fund the members of the federation, paying three kronor annually, are entitled to receive fifteen kronor per week for a maximum period of eight weeks, if sickness prevents them from following their ordinary avocations. The federation is the possessor of workshops in which more than seventy blind workers have regular employment: warehouses where brush-makers and basket-makers can purchase their materials cheaply; a typewriting department, where a number of blind men and women earn their livelihood; and it has also opened courses for stenography, foreign languages, etc.

From the central depôt of "De Blindas Förening," Majorsgatan 12, Stockholm, the blind are kept constantly employed, either in the workshops of the federation or at their homes in various parts of the country. Financial aid is extended to the old and feeble, and materials are sent to those who are able to follow any specific trade. Furthermore, "De Blindas Förening" readily aids the industrial blind by training in suitable trades and professions, and in other branches of activity for which the blind are specially adapted. It assists them in obtaining homes of their own and in equipping suitable workshops. It has opened salesrooms for their goods in Stockholm, at Gotenburg and at Malmö, where brushes, baskets and other products of industry are sold and paid for at the place of delivery.

In 1918 the association purchased raw materials to the value of kr. 965.126:87 (about £53,000) and disposed of the articles manufactured therefrom for kr. 540.785:16 (about £30,000).

The federation now possesses five buildings, at a total value of nearly kr. 600,000 (about £33,000).

Within its building at Majorsgatan 12, Stockholm, "De Blindas Förening" has a Library containing 7,000 volumes of stereotyped and manuscript Braille. We must not omit to mention here that in 1895 Mr. Lundberg was mainly instrumental in founding the Swedish "Weekly Review of the Blind" (De Blindas Veckoblad) which, thanks to the generous subsidies of the State and the local governments, is distributed gratuitously throughout the country to those who desire to have a copy. At present the "Weekly Review" has about 750 readers.

From year to year the work of "De Blindas Förening" continued to develop and extend most favourably, until it eventually became far too large a concern to be managed by one man. Mr. Lundberg was the very first to acknowledge this fact; and he devoted much thought and time to the solution of the problem—how to discover new enthusiasts whose energies would give additional stimulus and stability to the noble work.

After the most careful consideration, he decided to make an attempt to enlist the sympathies and help of the best philanthropic forces in the country and to weld them into a strong committee, which would be responsible for that portion of the work for which the founder could not spare the time.

On being approached by Mr. Lundberg, Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess Margaret of Sweden, daughter of the Duke of Connaught, graciously accepted the position of hon. president of the new committee, which was accordingly called "The Work Committee for the Blind of Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess Margaret of Sweden." Her Royal Highness also became the patroness of "De Blindas Förening."

The committee, which holds its meetings in the Crown Princess's apartments of the royal palace, was inaugurated two years ago, and has already conferred many benefits on our blind community. During the most difficult days of the late war this committee paid for the maintenance, in the shape of food, etc., of the workers in the workshops of "De Blindas Förening," and in addition thereto has also distributed gifts of clothing to the impecunious blind people. Its latest achievement is the formation of an influential association of the sighted, under the name of "The Protecting Friends of the Blind." These "Friends" are sedulously applying themselves to the task of assisting the blind in every possible way—to read to them, to take them out for exercise, and to embrace every opportunity for obtaining purchasers for their goods. We owe a debt of deep gratitude to Her Royal Highness, who is so universally beloved by our people.

But Mr. Lundberg occupies a conspicuous place, not only at "De Blindas Förening," for his abilities and energies have a much wider range; he plays an important part in connection with other societies for promoting the well-being of the blind. He is a member of the board of management of the Institution for the Blind at Tomtebodavägen (near Stockholm)

and of the committee of the Industrial Home for Blind Women at Nynäshamn.

Mr. Lundberg is an eloquent man—a speaker of the foremost rank; and he devotes this quality, as well as his other talents, to further and enhance the cause which is so near to his heart. Among his public speeches we specially remember “Convict Labour Against Handicrafts of the Defective, Particularly the Blind,” and “General Pensions for the Destitute Blind.” By virtue of his energetic propaganda and his skilful handling of the subject, coupled with his judicious action, the convicts in our State prisons have ceased to be our competitors.

In Sweden the blind of both sexes take pleasure in laying before “their beloved president” all their difficulties, and they invariably address to him personally their requests for help, knowing that he has a warm heart and a strong hand, and is always eager to help them in the betterment of their conditions. More and more he has become to us a true “big brother.”

As will be seen, Mr. Lundberg can look back upon a life teeming with kindly usefulness and rich with the fruits of many toilsome days and sleepless nights; and he has won the affection and gratitude of his fellow men. This affection and gratitude flow profusely from the hearts of those who are reaping the harvest of his indefatigable efforts on their behalf.

Ample evidence of the regard and esteem in which Mr. Lundberg is held was forthcoming on the fiftieth anniversary of his birth, February 20th, 1917. Hundreds of our blind came forward quite voluntarily to testify their appreciation of their president, and their subscriptions rolled in to swell the testimonial. The money thus subscribed was expended in the purchase of a bronze bust of our hero. This bust now has a permanent place in the library of “De Blindas Förening.” The weekly Review for February 20th, 1917, contained a portrait of Direktör Lundberg, printed in relief and prepared in England; and thus many of our friends could feel his dear features for the first time. We hear that this portrait is most jealously preserved in many Swedish homes.

One of our correspondents once wrote: “Direktör Lundberg never enters my thoughts without a thankful prayer. God bless him; God bless our Alrik Lundberg.”

HARALD THILANDER.

THE STUDY OF ARCHITECTURE.

A NEW HOBBY FOR THE BLIND.

IN the examination for the Associateship of the Royal College of Organists, the book which has been set for the essay is entitled “Gothic Architecture,” by P. A. Ditchfield, M.A. Blind candidates intending to take this examination may have felt discouraged when they learned the nature of the subject on which the essay was to be written, but they will be glad to know that the whole book has now been published and printed in Braille by the National Institute.

In some respects it may be regarded as a fortunate accident that this book should have been set as a subject of an examination. It is one of the first principles of progress that blind men should aim at competing on equal terms with those who can see. The National Institute has come to their assistance in this particular case, and it is safe to say that all blind candidates who study this volume carefully will acquire a very fair knowledge of the subject. But it is considered that the usefulness of the book will extend much further than this. Architecture in the past has not been considered a suitable subject for study by blind persons, but one has only to read this book to find how much can be learned and enjoyed thereby. The book is specially recommended to those who have any interest in English history, archæology or antiquities, for, as is stated in the introduction, the architecture of every nation is an essential part of its history.

The book takes up the subject from the beginning and describes chapter by chapter the characteristics of the various architectural styles. In addition to an introduction and notes there is a valuable glossary of architectural terms, but the novel feature of the book consists of the diagrams, which occupy eighteen plates and are inserted in a pocket at the end of the volume. These diagrams include a plan of Salisbury Cathedral, the tower of Earls Barton Church, etc., besides similar diagrams to illustrate the architectural terms explained in the glossary.

It is confidently expected that the publication of this book will create an interest in a fresh hobby which will give much enjoyment to many blind persons and their friends.

PLANS FOR THE EDUCATION OF SERBIAN BLIND.

MISS MARGARET MCFIE, who was one of the principal members of the St. Dunstan's staff in the early days of that hostel, was placed by the Serbian Red Cross authorities in charge of the arrangements for the re-education and training of blind Serbian soldiers, as she had the double qualifications of a thorough knowledge of the Serbian language and conditions and practical experience in caring for newly blinded men at St. Dunstan's.

After making temporary arrangements for them in Algeria, she and the blind Serbians have been transferred to Belgrade, where she is arranging an establishment for their re-education and training on very sound and practical lines.

It is most gratifying to feel that Miss McFie's interest in men blinded in the war is being extended to an interest in the welfare of the blind community in general.

In a letter recently received from Miss McFie by Sir Arthur Pearson, she speaks of her hopes and plans for an establishment for the education and training of blind Serbian children. The following is an interesting extract from her letter:—

"Now that the school which I have organized for the blinded Serbian soldiers exists as a model of what can be done for the blind, it will be comparatively easy to get State action, and I hope to be the means of working a scheme for Serbian blind in general. There are great numbers of blind children. For them at present nothing is done at all. Having once set a standard in the school for blinded soldiers, I wish to insist on the possibility of that standard for all blind people; and I feel that by training our soldier-pupils we can in this way train a staff of men who by next year will be able to create independent blind education in Serbia. Quite close to our Zemlin School is a large building left unfinished by the Austrians. I have proposed to the Ministry to finish the building and to devote it to the blind. It could be ready by next Spring. The Minister is quite willing to do so, and says that he can easily obtain the necessary money for repairs. I shall by then have a trained staff, and in a year's time we

should be educating the blind children on sound lines and turning them out under the supervision of a Care Committee."

The National Institute for the Blind has arranged to supply Miss McFie with writing and Braille frames, Braille paper, games for the children, Braille watches, some technical tools and a piano, in order that she may be able to make a good start with her work.

THE RESULT OF BABY WEEK.

THE National Baby Week Council is satisfied with the result of the year's work. It is purely propaganda work, of course, but there is no doubt but that it has been enormously effective. We have not yet achieved the decorative pageantry they attain to on Baby Day in the United States; but Pram. Parades, Baby Competitions, and Child Welfare Exhibitions have done much to awaken interest in the great work of baby culture.

After the ordinary business was over at the annual meeting, Captain Reiss, of the Garden City Association, stated that in Letchworth the infant mortality is 30 per 1,000, as compared with 160 per 1,000 in large towns. He said there were fifty acres in one London borough covered with entirely the wrong sort of houses, and pointed out that the mother who had to wrestle with all sorts of household inconveniences had not enough time left to look after her children.

oooo

INDIA'S BLIND THOUSANDS.

GIVING evidence before the Joint Committee on the Government of India Bill, Colonel R. H. Elliot, for fifteen years a member of the Indian Medical Service, said he did not think the Government had begun to realise their responsibilities. There were 600,000 totally blind people in the villages of India with nobody to care for them, and the amount of blindness which might be prevented and cured was colossal.

oooo

THE difficulty of reading Braille by sight may be greatly reduced if the dots are blackened. This can be done by placing a piece of carbon paper or typewriter ribbon in the guide beneath the sheet upon which the writing is done.

MESSAGE FOR THE BLIND.



HERE appeared in the *Daily Mail* of October 21st, an article on Massage, entitled "A Promising Profession." Some remarks in this article concerning massage as a profession for the blind called forth a letter from Sir Arthur Pearson, which he sent to the editor of the *Daily Mail*. We reprint both article and letter, as we think they will be of interest to all concerned with the care of the blind:—

A PROMISING PROFESSION.

Science is always progressive, and massage has to-day the dignity of being a science, while progress decrees the inclusion of a knowledge of medical electricity and remedial exercises in the qualifications of a masseuse who means to succeed in her profession.

Massage is not merely the art of rubbing. It is an important curative agent, and during the years of war its worth has been demonstrated time and again. It is, too, a profession which is particularly suited to women, and the prospects it offers are quite good. The Ministry of Pensions is establishing clinics all over the country for the treatment

of wounded men (and these clinics—who knows?—may be the foundations of those health centres which the Ministry of Health is going to bring into being); then, too, there is the Military Massage Service, in which a masseuse starts at a minimum salary of £2 15s. a week. There is work also under the Admiralty, not to mention private cases

undertaken for various doctors which bring in a comfortable income to a skilled woman.

To become skilled a year's training is necessary, although up to the end of 1920, six months will be sufficient to gain the certificate of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, which is considered to be the hall-mark of efficiency. The cost of training varies according to the school attended, but averages from £45 to £70 for the whole course.

All masseuses must work under a doctor, and doctors expect them to be women with brains, therefore a sound education is a *sine*

quâ non, while good health and an attractive personality are also essential. It is advisable to mention, however, that deaf people, so long as they are physically strong, are not debarred from taking up this career, and loss



A BLIND MASSEUSE AT A MILITARY HOSPITAL.

of sight is very little handicap, except, of course, that the work is limited, as a blind person cannot undertake the various treatments by electricity and remedial exercises.

It is an interesting fact that women teachers have been appointed both by the War Office and the Admiralty to initiate the medical orderlies and sick-bay attendants into the mysteries of massage. Two years' training is necessary to become a teacher, and a teacher's salary usually starts at £200 a year.

Any girl who desires to take up massage as a profession should write to the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses at 157, Great Portland Street, W.1, who will send them a list of schools and hospitals at which they may train. This society is an examining body, but is also a human institution, for it keeps in touch with its members, provides them with lectures every month and a conference every year. It possesses an attractive club-room and a library, and also runs a registry and a journal. During the twenty-three years of its existence it has granted over 5,000 certificates. Its main object is to maintain the high standard to which massage, electricity, and orthopædic work is entitled, and the success of this endeavour is apparent in the recognised ability in this country of the majority of those who hold its certificate. T. H. C.

To the Editor of the "Daily Mail."

Dear Sir,

In an article, which appeared in your issue of the 21st October, entitled "A Promising Profession," and which dealt with the subject of Massage, a statement was made that blind persons cannot undertake the various treatments by Medical Electricity and Remedial Exercises. This is quite untrue, as there are many blind masseurs and masseuses working to-day in London and the provinces, who treat cases not only by Massage but by Medical Electricity and Remedial Exercises.

Blind students, the bulk of whom are trained at the National Institute for the Blind, receive a year to fifteen months' training, which includes Massage, Remedial Exercises and Medical Electricity.

Medical men and women in all parts of the country have borne eloquent testimony to the excellent work of blind masseurs,

and in respect to the two subjects specially mentioned, I should like to quote the opinion of three authorities.

Major Broad, who has for some time been in charge of the Alder Hey Orthopædic Hospital, Liverpool, has had blind masseurs under his observation for several years, and maintains, as a result of his experience, that they are thoroughly suited to carry out treatment not only by Massage but by Remedial Exercises and Electricity.

Dr. G. Murray Levick, in charge of the Electrical Department of the Military Orthopædic Hospital, Shepherd's Bush, has for some time been training blinded officers and men from St. Dunstan's in Medical Electricity, and can not only speak of their aptitude and ability for this section of the work, but is actually employing a blind masseur in the Electrical Department of a large London hospital.

It should be understood that the certificate issued to blind masseurs by Dr. Levick only includes that part of electrical treatment which can perfectly well be performed by a blind man. Other forms of treatment are carefully excluded. There is not the least doubt that the Faradic Contraction of Normal Muscles, which is now so inseparably associated with training in Massage, can be performed just as well by a blind man as by one who can see.

Again, Dr. Agnes Keen, an unquestioned authority on the subject of Massage and Remedial Exercises, has for four and a half years been associated with the training of blind students (the majority of whom are blinded officers and men from St. Dunstan's) at the National Institute for the Blind in these subjects. Her opinion as to the capability of the blind to carry out treatment by Remedial Exercises has been expressed in no uncertain terms, and as proof of the genuineness of her opinion, she has employed several blind masseurs and masseuses in the treatment of cases requiring Exercises with excellent results. She is also entirely in accord with blind persons giving treatment by Medical Electricity, and was herself responsible for obtaining training, in one of the largest London hospitals, for a few blinded soldier masseurs, prior to regular training being inaugurated at the National Institute for the Blind.

ARTHUR PEARSON, Chairman,
Blinded Soldiers' & Sailors' Care Committee,
St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, N.W.1.

TWO MUSICAL PRODIGIES.



MUCH interest has been aroused by the marvellous performance on the pianoforte of twin brothers, both of them blind from birth. These boys, who are fourteen years of age, have never been taught a note of music. They sit down to the piano and imitate or reproduce tunes which they have heard and memorized. A "rag," a "jazz," a bit of the classics—all these are heard and stored up in their minds. No one has taught them technique; it has come spontaneously. The extraordinary part is that the one is unable to work without the other; they may perhaps be said to represent two beings with a single mind.

It was Miss Kate Anderson, of operatic fame, and her husband, Mr. Albert Bevan, music-master at Christ's College, who "discovered" the twins. Husband and wife were enjoying a holiday in the West of England, when they came to the little hamlet of Warmley, in Gloucestershire. Here, one evening, the music-master caught the pianoforte strains of "Il Bacio" through the open window of a neighbouring cottage. The rendering of the piece was so remarkably good that the music-master could not refrain from enquiring the names of the performers. He was told that they were Frank and Victor Aukland, the blind twins, who had never seen a music score in all their lives. When these boys were two years and two months old they played their first simple tune on the family harmonium. At five years of age they, with that same harmonium, were taken to the parish church to impress the vicar with the truth of the village gossip, and later a kindly neighbour lent them his own piano. So impressed was Mr. Bevan with the wonderful musical genius of the boys that he brought them to London, where they are now delighting huge audiences at various music-halls. Their technique and expression are

extraordinarily good. After five weeks in London, during which time they were taken to hear the best bands and orchestras, they appeared before their first critics, every one of whom they entirely disarmed. They fingered out military airs, little bits from the operas and music-halls, with the confidence and certainty of old masters. Having heard the Guards' Band play "The Weymouth Chimes" in Hyde Park, the twins went home and rattled it off without a fault; the same was the case with one of Sir Edward Elgar's masterpieces. More wonderful still was their impression of a street organ ringing the bells "For Me and My Gal." And most wonderful of all was the martial air they composed in open competition.

These boys are indeed fortunate beings. Denied the gift of sight, they found a pathway into the light through the yellow and age-worn keys of the old harmonium in their Gloucestershire home. They are supremely happy, and they are bringing happiness to others.

oooo

SOCIAL GATHERINGS AT FOLKESTONE.

THE first of a series of social gatherings for the blind of Folkestone was held on October 9th, in the Friends' Meeting House, Dover Street. The entertainments consisted of vocal and instrumental music and short lectures, followed by social chat. Mr. William A. Acott, Home Teacher, who sends an account of this gathering, states that their value lies in the intimate relationship into which they throw the little community, and he urges that similar organisations might well take place in every town which possesses a population of sufficient size to justify their creation. The population of Folkestone does not exceed 40,000, but on this occasion sixteen people, all suffering under the same handicap, met as total strangers to one another. "What," says Mr. Acott, "is the condition of affairs in the larger centres?"

WORCESTER COLLEGE.

THE world's champion chessplayer, Señor Capablanca, recently played forty simultaneous games at Worcester Blind College, fifteen against students and twenty-five against representatives of Worcester City, Stourport, Evesham, Malvern, and other district clubs. He lost only one. Reed, a college player, aged eighteen, had the honour of the win. Capablanca opened with the Ruy Lopez attack, to which Reed made the correct reply. The champion lost his queen in the middle of the game and resigned on the thirty-seventh move.

CORRESPONDENCE.

RECENTLY the National Institute for the Blind has been experimenting with a small character Braille dot. The following extract from a letter received from an officer blinded in the war, who of course has only learnt Braille since he lost his sight about three years ago, is, I think, of sufficient interest for publication, in view of the fact that a certain amount of hostile criticism has been directed against its innovation:—

" . . . I think that the average Braille reader will welcome this small type if I do. Braille books occupy a lot of space in a room, and the saving in that respect will be a consideration. Also the weight and greater handiness in taking reading matter on a railway journey will be a consideration. I suppose, too, that the saving in material will be considerable. I am also sure that after reading a few pages anyone will find that the speed on the new type will be as great as on the old. I had not the very slightest difficulty in reading it, and very soon I found myself getting on as rapidly as with the old type. Certainly I should go on with it.

" Yours sincerely,
" A BLINDED OFFICER."

THE BLIND MAN'S STICK.

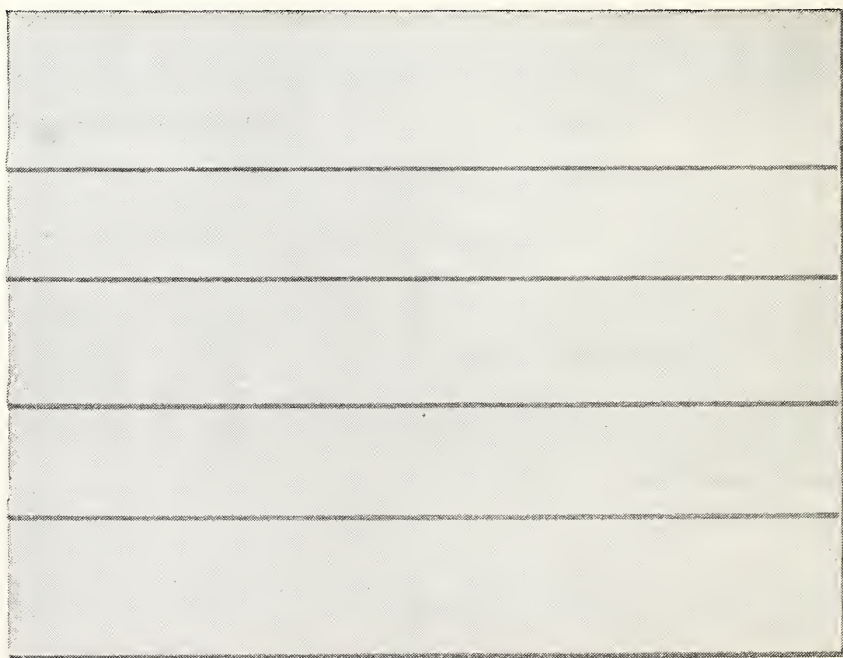
HAVE you heard the rapping
Of a soul that prays for light,
When the blind man's stick comes tapping,
Tapping down the street at night?

Can you see his long tails flapping
In the wind that takes afright?
Can you hear the devils clapping,
Clapping at his lonely plight,
When the blind man's stick comes tapping
Down the street at dead of night?

"A.S.," from the *Morning Post*.

OOOO

TO help that branch of the National Institute for the Blind which looks after blind babies at Sunshine House, Chorley Wood, Mr. P. J. S. Richardson is organizing a "Sunshine Matinée" at the Queen Theatre, by permission of Sir Alfred Butt and Mr. Owen Nares, on Friday, November 28th. Adeline Duchess of Bedford and Sir Arthur Pearson are on the committee.



HOLT'S WRITING-FRAME.

Our illustration shows a cardboard writing-frame with raised lines specially adapted for the use of the blind. The frame is placed under the writing-paper, the third finger of the writing hand rests on the raised line, so that the writing remains between the lines, and full scope is given for the up-and-down strokes. The sets, which consist of a frame sufficiently large to take a good-sized sheet of writing-paper and a smaller frame the size of a small envelope, are on sale at the National Institute for the Blind. The price is 1s. Good results have been obtained from the use of this frame, which is of great simplicity.

THE ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION.



THE September number of *The Lifeboat*, the Journal of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, whose headquarters are at 22, Charing Cross Road, W.C., gives an interesting account of the work of that Institution. Founded nearly one hundred years ago by Colonel Sir William Hilary, who himself was the first to win the Gold Medal of the Institution for life-saving, the Institution has so developed its work until there are now 260 lifeboats, nineteen of which are driven by motor power, round the coasts of the British Isles.

The difficulty of battling against the fury of the elements in a boat propelled by oars is obvious, and it is the aim of the Institution, as funds permit, for it is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions, to replace these old-fashioned boats by motor-boats.

During the war the work of the lifeboats was augmented in proportion to the increased danger to shipping, and the extinguishing of navigation lights and the silencing of bell buoys on the east and north-east coasts added to the dangers and difficulties to be encountered. As every able-bodied man had been mobilized, the crews had to be drawn from men long past their prime, and volunteers of sixty and even seventy years of age were never lacking. While the sons were fighting the fathers carried on this heroic work of life-saving, and the part played during the war by these veteran lifeboatmen was no less worthy than that which was played by the younger men, who fought for their country on land and sea, though it received no publicity and no special recognition.

The following account of a rescue gives an idea of the perils they willingly face. "On the 30th September, 1918, the sloop *Pomona*, with a crew of twelve hands on board, stranded in a north-east

gale and a very heavy sea, about seventeen miles from Lowestoft. As other help was not forthcoming, a message was sent to Lowestoft, and Coxswain Swan at once fired the assembly guns. He succeeded in obtaining the requisite eighteen men, but two of these were over seventy years of age, twelve were over sixty, and the remaining four over fifty. Notwithstanding the severity of the gale this brave crew put off without hesitation to the help of the imperilled men. When the lifeboat reached the wreck she was completely under water, and four men were taking refuge on the top of the wheel-house, while five others were on the foremast. A terrific sea was running, and the first two attempts to get near the vessel failed owing to the wind and tide. Undaunted, however, by their failure, the men made a further attempt, which proved successful. With great difficulty the men were rescued, one man falling into the sea, but fortunately he was hauled on board by a boat-hook. The men on the wheel-house had to be dragged through the water into the lifeboat by means of a rope. As soon as all the men were safe the boat returned to Lowestoft." This service, carried out by a veteran crew in very severe conditions of weather, is only typical of the Institution's work.

A novel feature during the war was the assistance given in aircraft casualties, and this element is likely to enter largely into the work in the future.

Owing to the risks incurred it is unfortunately inevitable that from time to time there should be casualties amongst the crews, and the Institution provides for these by awarding compensation to men injured while on duty and pensions to the widows and children of those men who lose their lives on active service.

We owe much to these brave men, and our debt of gratitude must grow ever larger as with the increase in the world's shipping the need for this work of life-saving is intensified.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind.

FICTION.

Sir Thomas Thumb(Anon.)
 King's Fool, 3 vols.M. Barrington
 Johnny PrydeJ. J. Bell
 Kilmeny, 6 vols.....W. Black
 Quest of Glory, 4 vols.....M. Bowen
 My Merry Rockhurst, 4 vols.....A. and E. Castle
 For the Term of his Natural Life, 9 vols....M. Clarke
 Settler, 4 vols.R. Connor
 Corleone, 8 vols.....F. Marion Crawford
 Pigeon's Cave, 2 vols.....J. S. Fletcher
 Mudlarks AgainC. Garstin
 Spectre Gold, 3 vols.Headon Hill
 Curtain of Fire, 6 vols.J. Hocking
 Safety Match, 4 vols.Ian Hay
 According to Maria, 4 vols.Mrs. John Lane
 Derelicts, 4 vols.J. Locke
 Stella Marie, 5 vols.J. Locke
 Book of Strife, 2 vols.G. MacDonald
 Captain Margaret, 5 vols.J. Masefield
 The Secret, 4 vols.E. P. Oppenheim
 Basil Wilberforce: a memoir, 2 vols....G. E. Russell
 Human Touch, 4 vols."Sapper"
 Man who Lost Himself, 4 vols....H. de Vere Stacpoole
 Spragge's Canyon, 4 vols.....H. A. Vachell
 Lost Clue, 3 vols.Mrs. C. F. Walton
 The Time Machine, 2 vols.H. G. Wells
 The Interpreter, 8 vols.....G. J. Whyte-Melville
 Little White Nun, 3 vols.....Mrs. C. N. Williamson
 At the Mercy of Tiberius, 9 vols....A. J. Evans Wilson

MISCELLANEOUS.

Communion of the Weary(Anon.)
 Voice of the SilenceH. P. Blavatsky
 Recollections of an Irish Judge, 6 vols. M. M. D. Bodkin
 Letters from America, 2 vols.....R. Brooke
 Roman CatholicismH. R. Coxon
 Inn of Tranquility, 3 vols.J. Galsworthy
 Stray Studies from England and Italy, 4 vols.
J. R. Green
 Mrs. Humphry WardS. Gwynn
 To Menelek in a Motor-car, 4 vols.C. Hallé
 At Work, 4 vols.....Dr. Marie E. Hayes
 Darkness or Light, 4 vols.R. Keable
 CalvinismE. M. Magill
 Blossom of Thorns, 2 vols.J. R. Miller
 Thomas Carlyle, 4 vols.John Nichol
 Englishman Kamerad, 2 vols.....Captain G. Nobbs
 Strength and RefreshmentSt. Francis de Sales
 Bachelor in JapanE. E. Wood

FOREIGN.

Le Médecin de Campagne, 7 vols.....H. de Balzac
 L'Angleterre et la Guerre, 5 vols....André Chevrillon
 Orationes in Cutilinam, 2 vols.....Cicero
 Colomba, 4 vols.....Prosper Mériméo
 Psalms, St. Luke, St. John, and Romans (in Dutch)

MUSIC.

DANCE—
 A Dream of Delight, ValseH. Nicholls
 VIOLIN AND PIANO—
 Sonata, Op. 100 in G.....Brahms
 Sonata, Op. 108 in D minor.....Brahms

Music—continued.

PIANO—
 Mazurka in G, Op. 67, No. 1C. Scott
 The Pirates of Penzance (Fantasia, No. 2)
Sullivan-Smith
 The Silver Cross (Overture).....A. Herman
 The Silent Mere (three Impressions).....G. Lind
 (1, Once upon a time; 2, The Wood Nymph;
 3, Moonrise)
 SONG—
 How Lovely are Thy Dwellings.....S. Liddle
 CHURCH—
 O Lord My God, I will exalt Thee (General)
Dr. Nares

WORSE THINGS THAN WAR.

THE outstanding feature of Trafalgar Day as celebrated in London was the remarkable address of Dean Inge at the service at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

Nelson's column was arrayed in all the panoply of laurels and wreaths which always mark the occasion, and many thousands passed thereby to pay, through their respect for the great admiral, their homage to the men of the Navy who died during the war. Those, however, who were fortunate enough to gain admittance to St. Martin's will not readily forget the occasion.

"For twenty minutes," said Dean Inge, "we are able to give ourselves the luxury of forgetting all that has happened since the armistice and all that is likely to happen in the coming year. We will allow ourselves to dismiss from our minds the men whose squalid class-selfishness is ruining the country, and we will remember the men to whom they owe it that they have a country to ruin.

"We have come, the landsmen present at this service, to pay our deep and reverent homage to the admirals, captains, officers and men of the Royal Navy, to the men of the merchant service, and to the landsmen who volunteered for work afloat.

"We all hope and pray that wars may cease, but so long as men on active service sacrifice themselves gladly for their country, and men in civil life sacrifice their country to put a little money in their pockets, so long will many think that there are worse things than war and worse rulers of men than gallant officers. There are those who scoff at patriotism. What would they give us in its place?"—*Daily Express*.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. III.—No. 36.

DECEMBER, 1919.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	Textbook of Hygiene for Training Colleges ...	10
National Library for the Blind	2	Chess Triumph	11
"The Ribbon of Green"	3	Retirement of Mr. Meeson... ..	12
The Blind in Canada	4	"A Lesson in Contentment"	13
A Blind Preacher on Hope	4	What the Theatre Means to the Blind	14
The Waits	5	Blind Man's Calendar	14
Blind Weavers	6	A Famous Deaf-Blind Poet	15
Prevalent Cause of Blindness	7	Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind	16
Melba Sings at St. Dunstan's	8	Obituary	16
Music at the National Institute	9		

EDITORIAL.



THE year is approaching its end, and Christmas, the season of gladness, will soon be with us. This time we may give ourselves up to the undisturbed enjoyment of the hour, and wish each other "A Happy Christmas" without the feeling that the words are a hollow mockery. Looking back at the past months—and Christmas is the recognised time for reminiscence—we realise what a burden has been lifted from our hearts, which are filled with gratitude because of the Peace.

But as we look back, and again as we look forward, the greatness of the times almost overpowers us. The greatest menace to civilisation has indeed been overcome in a manner more complete than many of us had dared to hope for. But the problems of peace are far more complex than those of war. During the war there was but one clear object in view, an object which for the time being bound together all classes and political opinions. Many of the problems

which confront us to-day will take a great deal longer than five years to solve, and will engender party strife and bitter recrimination. There is hardly a social system which does not call for reform, and countless are the opinions which exist as to the best means of securing what all desire: the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of human beings. Perfect peace cannot prevail until this time of social unrest is over.

But we are wandering away from our primary object, which was to wish our readers "A Happy Christmas." A writer on the subject of Christmas once said: "We must not only entertain good wishes, we must carry them into effect." And indeed a wish is a poor thing if it is not accompanied by something more. If we wish our friend "A Happy Christmas" it seems that we ought to do something to contribute to that happiness. And this does not refer to material gifts alone, but to the greater gifts of sympathy and helpfulness. Nor does it apply only to Christmas time, but to every day of the year. Charles Dickens said, "No one is useless in the world who lightens the burden of it for someone else." Let each of us then give of his best this Christmastide, and remember

that even "if we have lost our chief good, other people's good would yet remain, and it is worth trying for."

* * *

Re the advertisement in the November issue of *The Beacon* recommending a Matron, we regret to say that we inserted the advertisement which was sent to us without any further communication. We should be grateful if whoever sent us the advertisement would tell us to whom we are to refer any answers.

* * *

In our last number of *The Beacon* there appeared an article dealing with the musical performance of Frank and Victor Aukland, the blind twins, who recently made their début on the music-hall stage. Since the publication of this article we have received the following facts from Mr. Gray, principal of the Royal School for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, which we print without comment, as we think they may be of interest to our readers:—

The boys were admitted as pupils to the Royal School for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, in January, 1908, being then 5½ years of age. Mr. Gray says "that it may seem strange, but the twin brothers were very difficult to train, as they possessed many mannerisms peculiar to the blind, which were so inherent and deep-rooted that traces of them still remain. Their gifts, undoubtedly, were entirely in the realm of music, and although, in addition, they received education on general lines they were 'handless' and awkward. When they were placed under the care of the music-mistress at the Royal School for the Blind they slowly responded to the experienced tuition afforded The memory was acute and receptive, the ability was apparent, although the whole being was lethargic By careful assiduity and determination the fingers began to operate with much more promise of their assuming the required dexterity. The twin brothers entered for the ordinary school examinations of the Incorporated Society of Musicians and of Trinity College, London, and generally were awarded certificates with honours, though this is by no means unusual in the musical life of this school."

Mr. Gray goes on to state that "Il Bacio," the execution of which first attracted Mr. Bevan's notice to the performance of the

twins at Warmley, in Gloucestershire, had been taught them at the school and had been played by the twins at a concert and prize distribution last year. The boys were maintained and educated until the age of sixteen by the Gloucestershire County Education Committee. At the age of sixteen they were placed in the training department for organists, pianists and pianoforte tuners at the Royal School for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym, where they were supported by the Gyde Charity, Stroud, Gloucestershire. They were induced to leave their studies in order to appear on the music-hall stage.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

THE following entertainments have been arranged, and will be held at 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1. All who are interested are cordially invited to be present:—

DECEMBER 10th, at 7.45 o'clock p.m.

Concert-Lecture on "The Limits of the Expressive Power of Music," by Alderman H. Keatley Moore, J.P., B.A., Mus.Bac.

The numerous and very varied illustrations (all unaccompanied) will be sung by "Mr. Moore's Choir for the Study of Unaccompanied Part-Singing," numbering about twenty-two voices.

JANUARY 14th, 1920, at 7.30 o'clock p.m.

"An Evening with the Brownings," by W. C. Berwick Sayers, Esq., F.L.A., Chief Librarian of Croydon Public Libraries.

OOOO

MR. W. H. BENNETT has been appointed Secretary and Superintendent of the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Chaucer-st., Nottingham, in succession to Mr. H. W. P. Pine.

OOOO

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

"THE RIBBON OF GREEN."



MR. E. LE BRETON MARTIN, the author of this most fascinating Christmas Playlet, is most heartily to be congratulated on a very successful piece of work. As a play "The Ribbon of Green" is excellent; as a piece of propaganda, most effective. It has been written for the National Carol League, and is being produced in many districts this Christmas on behalf of the Carol League funds. To read it in cold print is to be moved; one can easily imagine the burst of applause coming from an audience in whose presence it has been acted. Such applause would be necessary to the audience as a relief to its feelings. For the play stirs. It is true to life. It tells of the tragedy of war; it tells also of the victory won out of the tragedy. No one witnessing the play will be in ignorance as to the meaning of St. Dunstan's. Lieut. Richard Alston, the chief character of the play, blinded in the war, will bring to sighted spectators of the play vision of things not heretofore seen.

There are two scenes. The first is dated Christmas, 1915, and in it Richard Alston has come to bid his fiancée, Joan Annesley, good-bye before proceeding to the Front. He is tempted to accept a post at home, but declines. The second scene, Christmas, 1917, gives his return, not from the Front, but from St. Dunstan's, after being blinded in the war.

Interest centres round two songs which Richard Alston gives to Joan Annesley as Christmas presents, and a third which he sings. "The Ribbon of Green" is a beautiful little lyric. The first verse will give the meaning of the title.

"THE RIBBON OF GREEN."

Over the downlands a path was a-straying
 Ribbon of green on a carpet of gold,
 Over the hills where the bennets were swaying,
 Road of delight that so sweetly unfold.
 Summer was there when my love and I wandered
 Over the downs with the larks overhead,
 Summer, who all her wealth prodig'ly squandered,
 Heaping her treasures on treasures long dead.

Mr. F. S. Breville-Smith's music is most happy and harmonious. All the songs help the play splendidly, and they are just the sort to remain in the memory.

Nothing will plead the cause of St. Dunstan's more successfully than this play. Not a little in its favour is the fact that it can be easily staged. The costumes cause no trouble whatever, whilst the scenery is easily accomplished.

The National Carol League appears in the play, the curtain coming down on a group of carol singers singing the carol "We who have Sight" to the assembled family party. This carol is sung to the tune of St. Matthias,



The
RIBBON OF GREEN

A play with music —
by — E. Le Breton Martin
 Music *by* — F. S. Breville-Smith.

Published by
THE NATIONAL CAROL LEAGUE
 which is conducted by
The NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND
 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, London, W1.

Hymns Ancient and Modern, No. 28, the words being :—

CHRISTMAS CAROL.

WE WHO HAVE SIGHT.

This world of ours for joy was made,
As all the changing seasons show ;
The sun's bright warmth, the grateful shade,
The winter's sleep, the summer's glow,
And all the scenes of sweet delight
God gave us when He gave us sight.

For joy of rainbow and of rose,
For clean swept blue of summer skies,
Each cloud that with the wild wind blows,
Each picture that makes glad our eyes,
With thankful hearts let us proclaim
The glory of God's holy Name.

And as we sing of Christ Who died
For us upon the Cruel Tree,
Let us recall with praise and pride
Those who these glories cannot see,
Those who for us were smitten blind
That we God's glories still may find.

THE BLIND IN CANADA.

AN eloquent appeal for the better education of the blind in Canada was put forward by Mr. P. E. Layton, head of the Montreal Association for the Blind, at a recent meeting of the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers in that city. Mr. Layton assured his audience that, given educational advantages, the blind are capable of pursuing most useful and successful careers. He cited a number of examples of blind men and women who have become famous, among them being not a few who achieved their greatest success after losing their sight. He spoke of Henry Fawcett, former Postmaster-General of England, under whose administration many postal reforms were inaugurated ; of Sir Francis Campbell, who was knighted by King Edward for his work of educating the blind ; of Helen Keller, and of Sir John Kennedy, who became blind at the age of 70, and still continues his work as consulting engineer for the Montreal Harbour Commissioners.

Mr. Layton deplored the ignorance that existed as to the capabilities of the blind, and suggested that the public should be educated up to the point of ceasing to regard them as mere objects of compassion.

A BLIND PREACHER ON
HOPE.

THOSE who have most things in life that make for comfort and pleasure know very little about hope. Nothing at all about the passion of hope so intense that it means a present realization of joy against all sorts and conditions of odds.

A preacher in Bedford Park Church, Ealing, the other Sunday, took Hope as his subject, and if practising what is preached gave the right to mount the pulpit steps, then never an Archbishop in 'broidered vestments could rival the claim of ex-Sergeant Nicholls, who is blind, has lost both hands, and has had two ribs removed.

In a recent number of *The Beacon* an article bearing the title "Typewriting Without Hands," gave the inspiring story of this man's gallant fight, and a number of photographs showing the Sergeant with his special machine, using his wonderful artificial hands, busily at work during his training at St. Dunstan's.

When the dawn broke on September 4th, 1916, Sergeant Alan M. Nicholls, 2nd Durham Light Infantry, was a fit man, sound in every limb ; at midday he was a mass of wounds, subsequently estimated by the doctors to number five hundred.

"People used to tell me," said this herald of the best kind of Hope, "that in my place they would wish to die, but I prefer to live and be useful and happy."

"Worth a good many formal creeds, a gospel like that !" was the verdict of more than one member of the congregation that filled Bedford Park Church that Sunday morning.

S. B. P.

○○○○

THE Council of the National Institute for the Blind have just established a minimum wage (of 55s. for men and 37s. 6d. for women) for the workers at the Institute in Great Portland Street. Both men and women enjoy the advantages of the restaurant of the Institute, in which meals are served at a nominal price, while the women can claim the advantage of living in the Institute's Hostel for Women under the best possible conditions and at a very low charge.

THE WAITS.

"Now, too, is heard
The hapless cripple tuning through the streets
His carol new ; and oft amid the gloom
Of midnight hours, prevailed th' accustomed sounds
Of wakeful *Waits*, whose melody (composed
Of hautboy, organ, violin and flute,
And various other instruments of mirth),
Is meant to celebrate the coming time."



GREAT many theories exist as to the original meaning of the term "waits"—a term which we now associate solely with Christmas and the playing of Christmas music at night-time. Some people think that the word was applied in the first place to musical instruments, others that it referred to a particular kind of music, others, again, that it referred to the musicians themselves. There is evidence in support of all these views. In Thomas' edition of "The Famous History of Dr. Faustus" the word is clearly applied to a musical instrument: "Lastly was heard by Faustus all manner of instruments of music—as organs, clarigolds, lutes, viols, citterns, *waits*, horn-pipes, anomes, harps, and all manner of other instruments of music." Butler also, in his "Principles of Musick," published in 1636, mentions the waits or hoboys, implying that the waits or "wayghtes" was the same instrument as the one long known as the "hoboy," "haut-boy," or "oboe." In a Musical Dictionary appears the following reference to the word: "This noun formerly signified hautboys, and (which is remarkable) has no singular number. From the instruments its signification was after a time transferred to the performers themselves, who, being in the habit of parading the streets at night with their music, occasioned the name to be applied to all musicians who followed a similar practice." This explanation seems to us to be a very plausible one.

Chambers, in his "Book of Days," tells us that at one time the name of "waits" was given

to minstrels attached to the King's court, whose duty it was to guard the streets at night and proclaim the hour, as the watchmen were wont to do in London before the establishment of the metropolitan police. A regular company of waits was established at Exeter as early as the year 1400. The black book of the royal household expenses of Edward IV. provides for "A wayte, that nighteley, from Mychelmas to Shreve Thorsdaye pipethe the watche withen this courte fower tymes ; in the somere nyghtes iij tymes, and makethe bon gayte at every chambere-dore and offyce, as well for feare of pycheres and pillers. He eateth in the halle with mynstrielles, and taketh lyverye (allowance) at nyghte, a loffe, a galone of alle, a bushel of coles. . . . Also he parteth with the household of general gyfts, and hath his bedding carried by the Comptrollers assygnment ; and under this yeoman to be a groome watere . . ." This account, which goes on at some length, is an interesting one, as it shows that the wait, or "yeoman-wait" at court was a kind of page, paid partly in money and partly in board-wages. Besides the duties mentioned above he had to attend at the installation of Knights of the Bath.

In 1582 we find Dudley, Earl of Leicester, writing to the Corporation of London to ask that a servant of his might be admitted to the city waits. These borough waits appear to have been more nearly akin to the mediæval troubadours or minstrels who played to kings and nobles at and after the evening meal. The London waits of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries had a special uniform of blue gowns with red sleeves and caps, and wore a silver collar or chain round the neck. When the waits became town-musicians instead of court-pages, they were sometimes civic servants, employed as watchmen to call the hour at night; sometimes serenaders or nocturnal minstrels, who looked for a living from

private liberality. The Coxcomb of Beaumont and Fletcher refers to them as follows :—

“Where were the Watch the while? Good sober gentlemen,
They were, like certain careful members of the city,
Drawing in diligent ale, and singing catches.”

Some authorities trace the name “wait” to the German “Wacht,” meaning watchman or night-guard. A theory which appears to us most plausible is that the word is analogous to the Scotch *waith*, meaning “wandering or roaming about from place to place.”

Such wanderers were the minstrels of Scotland, who more than three centuries ago were under the patronage of the civic corporation of Glasgow, and were clothed in blue coats at the city’s expense. It is interesting to note that a remnant of this ancient custom was till recently to be found in the annual granting of a certificate or diploma to a few musicians who wandered through the streets of the city during the night for about three weeks or a month previous to New Year’s Day, in most cases performing on violins the slow, soothing airs peculiar to a portion of the old Scotch melodies. It will be of especial interest to our readers to hear that these Scottish musicians were generally blind men. At the beginning of the New Year these blind minstrels called at the houses of the city, and, having presented their credentials, received a small subscription.

The Pifferai, or Christmas pipers, of Rome, evidently had something in common with our waits. They were of the shepherd class, chiefly from the mountains of Abruzzi, which they left in time to spend St. Catherine’s Eve (November 25th) in the city. In their broad-brimmed felt hats with peaks and red tassels, coats of blue linen and a flaming red vest, large leathern waist-bags and ciocie (sandals), they went along in groups of threes through the streets, pausing in front of all the sacred images and playing the Novena.

It seems a pity that so many ancient and picturesque customs should be allowed to fall into disuse, as they form interesting links with the past. It is true that we still occasionally hear the old songs played at night time before Christmas—songs of which the first may be said to have been that of the shepherds who were guarding their flocks by night.

BLIND WEAVERS.

ANYONE who, having seen the beautiful hopsacks, tweeds, and cotton in the window, thinks that No. 21, Crawford Street, W.1, is an ordinary shop, will be surprised on entering to hear the sound of looms being worked, and to see through the glass at the back of the shop several girls busily weaving. These are the newly-opened premises of the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, and all the beautiful and varied materials are woven in the building by women all of whom are either totally or partially blind—that is to say, incapable of sighted work.

Many people associate the work of the blind with plain baskets and mats, of more use than ornament.

Go to the “Barclay” and you will see jumpers, hundreds of different kinds of dress materials, aprons, and overalls, all woven by the blind and full of exquisite taste, best workmanship, and of colourings and designs that “you cannot get elsewhere.”

There is always a varied assortment of tablecloths in checked cotton, for which there is an ever-increasing demand, as they keep down the washing bill. The average sales for the last few months have been £52 a week; it is necessary to increase this to at least £70 a week to cover expenses. These plucky blind girls do not want your sympathy or even donations—all they ask you to do is to go and see their work, and they know you will not leave without buying something—“I really can’t resist.” No worker receives less than 26s. 6d. a week; some earn more.

oooo

WAKEFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETIES FOR THE BLIND.

IN submitting their eighteenth annual report, the Committee of the Wakefield and District Workshops for the Blind state that their workshops have been well supplied with work during the year, and that wages have considerably increased. Goods have been sold and repairs executed to the value of £871 0s. 9d. The Home Teaching Society has continued its successful work, and a librarian who is herself blind has been appointed.

PREVALENT CAUSES OF BLINDNESS.

METHYLATED SPIRIT AND CHLORINATED LIME.



It is somewhat staggering to reflect upon the fact that, generally speaking, a poison has only been labelled a poison after someone has been poisoned. Knowledge gained at so heavy a cost should most certainly be propagated by every possible means, as it has been hallowed by sacrifice, and the continued existence of ignorance is simply a reflection on the energy of those who know. Therefore, we cannot too strongly impress upon our readers the fact that each day new cases are reported of death and blindness resulting from the internal use of wood alcohol or denatured alcohol, commonly known as methylated spirit.

Certain classes of people are addicted to drinking this mixture as a beverage without a knowledge of the terrible effects it produces. The extension of this habit for any length of time invariably ends in blindness. The alarm created by the new cases reported each day in the United States has led to a special appeal from the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness to the Press throughout the country, to make known as far as possible to everyone the nature of this deadly stuff. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has also taken action in the matter, and has issued special instructions to all collectors of internal revenue and revenue agents. Certain additional matter is to be affixed to all containers, so that there may be no plea of ignorance on the part of those handling them.

In future—so runs the new regulation—in addition to the existing matter on the labels, the word POISON is to be printed in large red letters under the skull and cross-bones symbol, and the following statement is to be inserted at the bottom of the label:—

“Completely Denatured Alcohol is a violent poison. It cannot be applied externally to human or animal tissue without serious injurious results. It cannot be taken

internally without inducing blindness and general physical decay, ultimately resulting in death.”

There are, without doubt, both in the States and in this country, despicable people who connive at the sale of this poisonous liquid as a beverage, and still more unscrupulous rogues who sell apparently harmless mixtures adulterated with wood alcohol. It is the bounden duty of any person who by chance meets with such illicit trading to denounce the offender at once to the authorities, so that the most careful investigations may be made by them. The revenue agents in the States are instructed so to act, and not only to prevent the sale of the spirit as a beverage, but also to prevent its use for external purposes, as it is highly injurious to the skin, and its sale for such purposes contrary to the rules and regulations.

To show the gravity of the above facts a special bulletin has been prepared by the National Safety Council on the subject, and will come to the attention of over five million workers in all parts of the United States.

There is another malignant and subtle cause of blindness to which we consider it important to call attention, and that is the household use of chlorinated lime. This disinfectant is an effective one, and in consequence is very largely used; but apart from that use it can cause, by careless handling, very dangerous eye burns. In recently reported cases the circumstances have been identical. The intending user pries open the lid of the tin container, and in doing so approaches his eyes too near, with the result that particles of lime are blown into them by the escape of the compressed gas. It may be noted that should such an accident occur medical treatment should be immediately sought, as probably this prompt action will alone ensure complete recovery.

The accident in most cases is apparently due to the decomposition of chlorinated lime when exposed to a high temperature or a damp atmosphere, and it would seem that its

prevention lies in a new design for the container. One large manufacturer has accordingly adopted a design which practically ensures safety ; it is to be hoped that other manufacturers will follow his excellent example.

The correct way, of course, to open one of the usual tins is to pierce a small hole in the top so that the pressure inside can be released ; this method should be described in large type on every container.

Every effort should be made to spread such information as the above. A cause is often very slight, but effects are more often very terrible.

OOOO

Dickens Guessed Right.

"TO an author not already famous, anonymity is the highest prestige," wrote George Eliot to her publisher, John Blackwood ; and for a long time she managed to keep him in the dark as to the real author of her stories.

From a letter written to him by Lewes he was led to believe that the author of "Scenes of Clerical Life" was a clergyman.

Dickens, with remarkable insight, hit on the truth without knowing it in a letter of congratulation. He was not convinced by the name on the title-page, and wrote that "I should have been strongly disposed, if I had been left to my own devices, to address the said writer as a woman." He remained of the same opinion after reading "Adam Bede," and told Frith that unless he was mistaken, G. Eliot was a woman.

Thackeray declared emphatically that the stories were not written by a woman.

MELBA SINGS AT ST. DUNSTAN'S.

THE men at St. Dunstan's were evidently much delighted with the visit of Dame Nellie Melba on November 19th. She was a little late in arriving, but that only made her appearance more welcome to the packed audience in the Outer Lounge. Even then Dame Melba was not complete ; her missing accompanist had, according to Sir

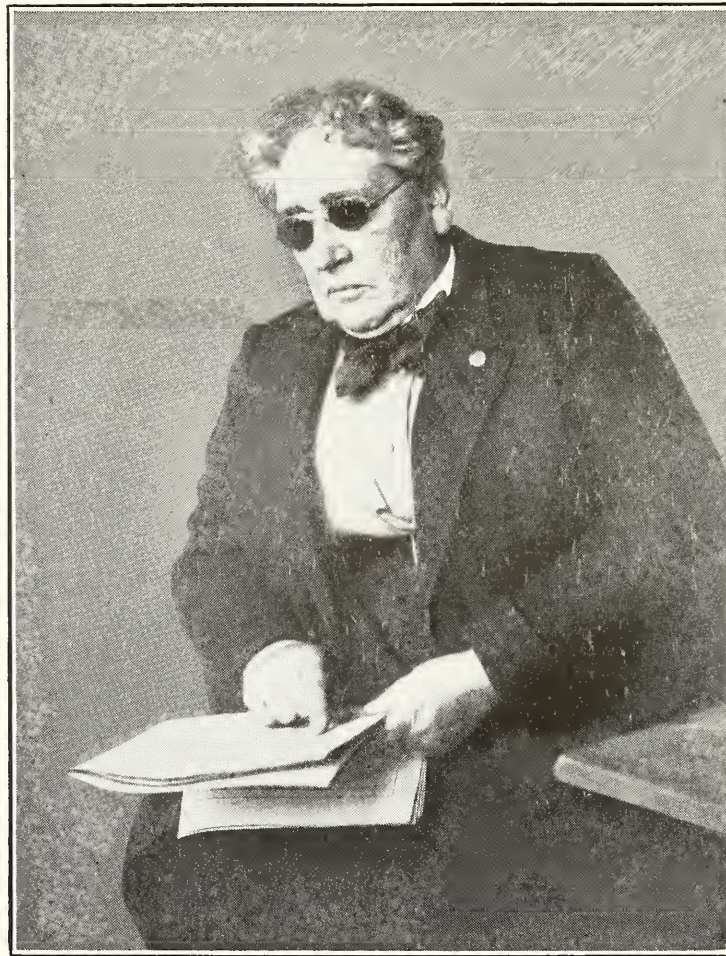
Arthur Pearson, "probably lost his way in the fog." However, Melba was determined that the men should not be kept waiting any longer, and began with a little Italian air—according to her, "The only one she knew how to play." Fortunately for those who wanted more—that is, everyone—the accompanist turned up, and "Bonnie Mary of Argyle" was rapturously applauded.

"Now, boys," said the great singer, "which will you have—'Good-bye' or 'Comin' Thro' the Rye'?" Both names were echoed by the audience, so Melba generously gave the two, and finished a memorable visit with a delightful little speech, in which she told the

St. Dunstan's men how, although separated by the seas, her heart had always been with them, and how proud she was to have had the pleasure of singing to them that day.

OOOO

I LOOK on that man as happy who, when there is a question of success, looks into his work for a reply, not into the market.—
R. W. Emerson.



[Copyright Daily Mail.]

MISS VANCE, the blind woman Councillor of St. Pancras Borough Council, reading the *Braille Mail*.

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE.

TWO ENJOYABLE CONCERTS.



THE announcement that Lady Pearson's Blind Musicians' Concert Party would provide the programme for the first of this season's monthly concerts in the Armitage Hall justified the expectation that there would be a large attendance on Friday, October 10, and this expectation was more than fully realised, for not only was every seat occupied, but several extra chairs were brought in, and still many were left standing. The contributors to the programme were as follows :—

Soprano, Miss Lister.

Contralto, Miss Buscall.

Tenor, Mr. Turner.

Baritones, Mr. Logan and Mr. Watson.

Pianist, Mr. Leonard Marsh, Mus.Bac., F.R.C.O.

Accompanist, Miss Capon.

The first number was the quartette, "Kathleen Mavourneen," by Crouch. This was expressively sung, and it provided evidence at the outset that the great essential for quartette singing—blend and balance of the four voices—had been satisfactorily realised. The other concerted numbers—which found a place in the middle and at the end of the programme—were Bantock's charming and effective arrangement of "Annie Laurie," Sullivan's "Strange Adventure," and "Haddon Hall."

Of these "Annie Laurie" is deserving of a special word of praise, for the many delicate effects of which it admits were well brought out, and the old familiar melody shows no sign of losing its charm.

Miss Buscall appeared to advantage in Sanderson's "My Dear Soul," and Mr. Turner in "Moya My Girl," by Aitken, while Miss Lister's light and flexible soprano voice and her cheerfulness of expression found a very happy outlet in "Love is meant to make us glad" and "Joyous Bird." Mr.

Watson vitalized the audience by a very spirited and wholly admirable account of "The Yeoman's Wedding," and Mr. Logan's strong artistic feelings found just their right expression in Stanford's delightfully expressive song "A Soft Day." As a contrast to this he gave Herbert Howells' most original "Mally O." This will find its way into Braille very shortly, for it is evident that the composer should be better known. And here it may be noted that Mr. Logan has several good songs to his credit, the only one in Braille at present, however, being "In Terra Pax." Mr. Marsh's excellent technique was manifested in Liszt's "Etude in D flat," and his rhythmic sprightliness in Herbert Fryer's Morris dance. By way of encore he gave an able improvisation upon themes supplied by the audience. There were numerous encores during the concert, bearing testimony to the enjoyment of the excellent fare provided and to the capacity of the artistes to give pleasure.

In conclusion, a word of special appreciation must be extended to Miss Capon, the accompanist (oftentimes accompanists do not get their share of the praise), who had her hands full during the whole programme, but who proved fully equal to all the demands made upon her. The accompaniments throughout showed musical feeling and a genuine sense of appreciation as to the precise rôle the piano should play on such occasions.

The thanks of all present are due to Lady Pearson for arranging such an enjoyable programme, and to Mr. Avalon Collard for his important contribution to the success of the evening. We hope to have the pleasure of hearing the Blind Musicians' Concert Party again in the Armitage Hall at no very distant date.

At the second concert on November 10th the artistes were Mr. Ernest Whitfield, Mr. Herbert Fryer, and Mr. Norman Notley.

Mr. Whitfield gave a very masterly rendering of that most exacting of violin

solos, "Chaconne," by Bach, in which he proved himself fully equal to all the demands made upon him, not only in the memorising (for the piece takes fourteen and a-half minutes to play), but also in the matter of technique and expression.

For his solos Mr. Fryer played "Serenade," Op. 3, and "Prelude in G minor," Op. 23, by Rachmaninoff. The latter, which is a particularly fine piece, evoked an enthusiastic recall, in response to which he played his own Morris dance. Mr. Whitfield and Mr. Fryer were very happily associated in Beethoven's "Sonata in F," Op. 24, known as "Spring," the rendering of which admirably illustrated the May-freshness of the work.

Mr. Notley's songs gave the programme variety, and his pleasing and easy style of singing added much to the evening's enjoyment. We may specially remark upon his concluding number, which had to be repeated. "Port of many ships," by Frederick Keel, a delightful model song admirably rendered.

* * *

The next concert will be on Tuesday, December 9th, at six o'clock, when Mr. A. C. Dixon's Male Quartette, "The Templars," will provide the programme. Mr. Dixon conducted Dr. Walford Davies' choir at our concert last December.

H. C. WARRILOW
(Director of Music).

OOOO

CHRISTMAS CARDS are a modern institution. The first genuine Christmas card was sent in 1844, and it is believed that the sender was W. E. Dobson, R.A. He had a friend from whom he received certain courtesies, of which he desired to show some especial appreciation. The time was Christmas. So, after some thought, he made a sketch symbolising the spirit of the festive season and posted it to his friend. The sketch was done on a piece of Bristol-board, about twice the size of the modern letter-card. It depicted a family group toasting absent friends among appropriate surroundings. And from this small beginning the idea, now so largely utilised and constituting such a vast industry, was developed.

OOOO

FRIENDSHIP improves happiness and abates misery, by the doubling of our joy and the dividing of our good.—*Cicero*.

TEXTBOOK OF HYGIENE FOR TRAINING COLLEGES.*

"THE teacher who settles down to give a lesson on cleanliness in a classroom covered with dust is probably doing more harm than good. The class had better first dust the room—even though this be superficially suggestive of Mr. Squeers' methods of instruction."

This sentence from her preface gives the common-sense note sounded throughout the Textbook just brought out by Margaret Avery, Vice-Principal of the Warrington Training College, and well-known for her lectures at Dudley Training College and at the Educational Handwork Association Summer Schools.

Written primarily in the interests of College Students, the book will be very widely useful to all who are interested in educational matters.

Special reference is made to the different forms of manual work suitable for girls and boys of varying ages in schools for the blind. And in a soundly practical chapter, headed "Senses and their Training," the author makes it clear that the teacher has power, if zealously watchful, to take steps to preserve the sight of many a child threatened with semi-blindness. Detailed instruction is given as to the wise conduct of myopic or semi-blind classes, and it is insisted that drill and games should enter very largely into the time-table.

There is, too, in an earlier chapter an enthusiastic outburst on the value of games. Sir Arthur Pearson claims that the blinded soldiers of St. Dunstan's have learnt quite as much, if not more, from play as from work. The tinies in the Sunshine Home for Blind Babies at Chorley Wood are being brought up in the same happy creed. And we welcome every educational Textbook that emphasises the mental and moral as well as physical value of playing the game.

S. B. P.

* "A Textbook of Hygiene for Training Colleges." By Margaret Avery, B.Sc. London, M.R. San. I. Methuen & Co., Ltd.

OOOO

ONE of the most important things in life is not where we stand, but in what direction we are moving.—*G. Herbert*.

CHESSE TRIUMPH.

WORLD'S CHAMPION BEATEN BY A BLIND STUDENT.

"I'VE a good position now," said E. I. Reed, the eighteen-year-old student at Worcester College for the Blind, when playing Señor Capablanca, the great master of the great game of chess.

"I've a good position now, and if I were playing anybody else I should feel certain of at least a draw, but I suppose I'll make a regular mess of it soon."

But the modest youth's misgiving proved unfounded. Señor Capablanca opened with the Ruy Lopez game, to which Reed replied with the classical defence. The champion lost his queen in the middle of the game, and also the exchange. He resigned on the thirty-seventh move. Reed is in his fourth year at Worcester College, where he learnt his chess.

There are a number of expert chess players in the district, and the brilliant Cuban was prevailed upon to play some forty simultaneous games at the Worcester College—fifteen against blind students, and twenty-five against representatives of Worcester City, Stourbridge, Evesham, Malvern, and other district clubs. Capablanca won thirty-nine of the forty games, young Reed, who played fourth board for the School, having the honour of being the only victor over the World's Champion.

When announcing the visit of the great chess player for the following Tuesday, *Berrow's Worcester Journal* gave these interesting facts:—"It is not to be supposed that the College would have secured this unique honour had the record of its club not been above the ordinary. The club was established six years ago, and during the intervening years has defeated the King's School ten times, the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, Malvern College, King Edward's School, Stourbridge, Royal Naval College, the Y.M.C.A., and the Royal Engineers. In 1917 the Club won the Worcestershire Public Schools Championship by defeating the

holders, King Edward's School, Stourbridge, by six games to nil."

The list of triumphs is a long one, and at the end of it the *Worcester Journal* shows itself as modest as Reed himself! "It is hardly to be hoped," it is written, speaking before the event, "that any of the players on Tuesday will score a win against Señor Capablanca; a draw will be considered as a very great success."

Capablanca was much impressed by the play of the blind students, and said that he fully expected some of the youths against whom he had just played would make names for themselves in the history of chess.

One London newspaper referred with seeming surprise to having found "one game at which the blind can hold their own," surely by a slip of the pen, for there is little excuse for ignorance on the subject with St. Dunstan's only a 'bus ride from Fleet Street.

A representative of the same paper called on Sir Arthur Pearson a little later to hear his views on the chess triumph, and was assured at once that chess was not the only game at which blind people could hold their own.

"I know many blind bridge players," said Sir Arthur, "who can hold their own in any company. The only way in which their play differs from any ordinary game is that the dummy hand is called over as it is laid on the table, and each player announces his card as he plays it."

S. B. P.

OOOO

BOYS and their pastimes are swayed by periodic forces inscrutable to man; so that tops and marbles reappear in their due season, regular like the sun and moon; and the harmless art of knucklebones has seen the fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of the United States.

R. L. STEVENSON.

RETIREMENT OF MR. MEESON.

IT is with sincere regret that we learn of the approaching retirement of Mr. J. B. Meeson, manager of the Leeds Incorporated Institution for the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb. After thirty years' of untiring energy and devotion in the interests of the Institution Mr. Meeson is obliged, owing to ill health, to resign his post at the end of this year.

Born in 1851, Mr. Meeson began his commercial career at eight years of age as an errand boy, and was later sent to the Sheffield Boys' Charity School. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to a cabinet-maker, and four years later went as improver in the pattern-making department of an engineering firm. The experience gained in the latter occupation served him in good stead when he became associated with the Sheffield Blind School and later with the Leeds Institution. When Mr. Meeson became manager of the Leeds Institution he at once realised the necessity of placing it on a business footing

and of assuring the public that it could supply goods of the same quality and at the same prices as those of other manufacturers. That his efforts in this direction have been successful is proved by the fact that the sales of the Institution from 1889 to 1919 have totalled £249,859, the turnover for the past year, which amounted to £19,736, being the highest on record. The following table shows at a glance how the work has progressed:—

Year.	No. of Workers.	Turnover.	Wages.
1889	32	£3,087	£344
1900	56	£6,851	£1,145
1910	69	£8,621	£1,413
1919	81	£19,736	£2,014

To use Mr. Meeson's own words: "My object has been to benefit the blind and leave them in better circumstances than those in which I found them, and the voluntary services I have rendered have been as a thankoffering for the blessing of sight vouchsafed to me." In attaining this object Mr. Meeson has earned the heartfelt gratitude of all those interested in the welfare of the blind and the deaf and dumb.

OOOO

WASSAIL is derived from the Old English words, *wæs hal*, meaning "be whole," "be well." It was primarily the ancient form of "toasting," the term being applied later to the Christmas feasting and revelry, and particularly to the bowl of spiced ale or wine which was a feature of the medieval

Christmas. One of the earliest references to the wassail bowl in English history is in the description of the reception of King Vortigern by Hengist, when Rowena "came into the king's presence, with a cup of gold filled with wine in her hand, and making a low reverence unto the king said: 'Wæshael hlaford Cyning,' which is 'Be of health, Lord King.'"



THE BLIND BABIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY.

In a collection of ordinances for the regulations of the royal household in Henry VII's reign, the steward on Twelfth Night was to cry "wassail" three times on entering with the bowl, the royal chaplain responding with a song. Wassailing was as much a custom in the monasteries as in laymen's houses, the bowl being known as "*poculum caritatis*." What was popularly known as wassailing was the custom of trimming with ribbons and sprigs of rosemary a bowl which was carried round the streets by young girls singing carols at Christmas and the New Year.

"A LESSON IN CONTENTMENT."

"There's nothing either good or bad
But Thinking makes it so."



IN a recent number of that cheery little paper, *Fragments*, in which Captain Bruce Bairnsfather is continuing the inimitable drollery of his "Fragments from France," there appeared a letter written to "Old Bill" which might well be called "A Lesson in Contentment." It tells of the cheery way in which the blinded St. Dunstaners are facing their lot, due most assuredly in part to the spirit of brightness and normality which prevails at the hostel, and in part to the wonderful "sporting" instinct which is characteristic of England's sons. The "Capting" tells us how he was feeling down in the dumps one day for no particular reason at all. "Great depths of gloom in ordinary life," he writes, "can come with peculiar swiftness only to go with equal rapidity. One of those times, Bill, I mean, when the ordinary things which generally please and comfort seem to have lost their charm for ever, when one is filled with discontent and envious desire. Well, my dear old chap, I had one the other night. I had finished work, and with peculiar melancholy started out to gain a change and cheer from life elsewhere.

"The world seemed gray that night. I felt annoyed that I was not happy. 'Why not?' I thought to myself. 'I have health and strength, and am free from most anxieties that oppress so many. I have a gracious share of so-called worldly comforts. Yet, Bill, there I was, in an ugly mood, 'fed up.'

"I wandered forth into lamplit London, moving among the ever-moving crowd, a solitary, solemn, bored and silent figure. I turned into a hotel. The bar, I felt, would be at least a scene of bright lights and friendly gossip. There's nearly always someone cheery in a bar. I entered, and fought my mood over a whisky-and-soda. A

little group stood round the counter; with sad and mournful face I watched them from my chair at the end of the room. 'There are those fellers,' I said to myself, 'laughing and talking. Why am I not like one of those?' There was one man in that group that caught my eye. A tall young man. He had his back towards me. He seemed to be the life and soul of the gathering. I could see that he was talking and laughing and having the same effect on those about him. The barmaid, too, was smiling as she handed drinks around. Presently, out of the jumble of cheerful-sounding conversation there came a mighty, full-blooded laugh. It was obvious that some words from the tall young man with his back towards me had been the cause. I fought the morose little devil within me, and went towards the counter. I could hear the man's words now. He was just about to leave. 'Good-night, Miss Harrison,' he was saying. 'See you tomorrow. Cheerio!' He turned and faced me. He was blind. . . .

"He groped for his two sticks. His friends put them into his hands. With a smile on his young face he turned to leave the bar, guided by a friend. As he passed I looked and thought, then felt ashamed. 'Who is that?' I asked. 'Oh, he's a top-hole chap,' someone said, blinded in the war, you know. Before that he used to hunt, fish, motor, and all that sort of thing. Now he is at St. Dunstan's.' . . . I left the bar. My mood was over."

OOOO

THE REV. R. K. MONCRIEFF, B.D., of the Parish of Arngask, Glenfarg, holds a record for length of service. For forty-two years he has been minister of the parish, and sightless throughout. Mr. Moncrieff is resigning, and at a meeting of the Presbytery his splendid work was heartily acknowledged, and is being warmly responded to by the district in all ways and by all sections of the community.

WHAT THE THEATRE MEANS TO THE BLIND.

THERE are strange contradictions in the human intelligence. The kindly hostess who carefully lighted the gas before leaving her blind guest in his room for the night was quite mystified when she found that he delighted in going to the theatre!

But she soon realized his point of view. Before he had stayed with her many days her sympathetic mind had learnt what a happy and interesting life may be lived in the dark.

She and her guest went several times to the theatre. "And because I wanted to get the dear boy's *outlook*," she said, "I kept my eyes closed during the first act. Well, I *saw* it all. I really did! Of course, I might find in the second act that my dark-haired heroine with the soft brown eyes was really fair and had eyes of forget-me-not blue, but that didn't disconcert me a bit. She was *the same girl*, with the same sweet, clear voice and lovable disposition. And the villain was not the less villainous when I found him wearing a Panama instead of a crushed-in felt. No, the only man that was out of the picture was the man who mumbled!"

That is the point—the only actor who is out of the picture for the blind playgoer is the actor who mumbles. And as mumbling is not a common fault upon the stage, it follows that actors are greatly appreciated by the blind.

Miss Marjorie Campbell, when she was playing the title part in "Tiger Rose" in a well-known seaside town, before the play came to London, had a letter from a blind soldier who went to "see" the play more than once during its visit. Miss Campbell was so proud of her letter—self-typed by her blind admirer, "and without a single mistake or rub-out"—that she had it quoted in a London paper, and she declared that she prized it more than any other letter she had ever received from a stage admirer.

"I thought," said the writer of this letter, "if I told you that I cannot see but still was able to follow the play without anyone to tell me what was on the stage, you could bet your life it was a good thing."

Yes, a good play is a very good thing for the blind just as much as for the sighted. A well-known journalist once told me he could never make himself read or write in a railway train—"there is so much to see through the windows."

The blind man cannot entertain himself by watching the pageant of life go by. For him the blinds are pulled down over the windows.

But we might remember, whenever we have theatre tickets to give away, that a very good way to pull up the blinds and let the pleasant things of life be seen, is to take a friend who cannot see to enjoy an evening in the theatre.

S. B. P.

BLIND MAN'S CALENDAR.

ONE flurry of snowdrops dead with last
year's snow
Is all my January; an amber glow
Pavilioning a sunset fen is February;
And March, the poet's month, gives back
to me
Along the river, in delight that stills
Like sudden song, a burst of daffodils.
As from a train at dusk once, April is
A scutter and flash of starry primroses;
Birds singing in a milk-white dawn is
May;
June one rose breaking with a long dead
day.
Trees on a hillside rising to the sky
In haze smoke-soft as incense are July;
And August is a midnight wave shot
through
With phosphorescent, unbelievable blue.
September is one orchard's wizardries—
Small scarlet apples beading golden trees;
For ever and for ever my heart finds good
The burning bush of one October wood;
Indigo clouds, while all Novembers run,
I mass about one blood-red, setting sun;
And in December ache to an old tune—
Frost and a silver forest and the moon.
These are my treasures of remembered
light,
These the twelve candles that must last my
night.

V. H. FRIEDLAENDER.

("The Observer.")

A FAMOUS DEAF-BLIND POET.



ONE of the happiest-looking people in Louisville, Kentucky, Morrison Heady, the deaf-blind poet, was youthful still when he celebrated his eightieth birthday. His secret? A life crowded with interests.

Besides being an architect, a musician, an inventor, a story-maker and a humorist, he was always a special favourite with the children, and that would keep anybody young and lively, long past the allotted span!

Yet Morrison Heady through life had been what most people would call exceptionally unlucky. He lost the sight of one eye when a very small boy, being struck by a chip from a woodcutter's axe. At sixteen he became totally blind; watching a game of Catch-as-catch-can outside the log cabin school, Heady's face was caught by the heel of one of the players in the excitement of the game, and the one sound eye was ruined. Two years later, as the result of a fall from horseback, his hearing began to fail. So that before he had fully grown the youth had to face this double handicap.

He had devoted much time to music, a source of great enjoyment to the blinded lad, and he showed marked talent, but as his hearing failed he had to give this up, though even in old age when believing himself to be quite alone, he would run his fingers lovingly over the piano keys and play from memory, in the silence and the dark, some remembered tune.

Morrison Heady always had an inventive brain, and one of his most useful inventions made his means of communication with the rest of the world. This is his "talking-glove" (and here it is only fair to state that he is not the only inventor of "talking-gloves"). He thought it out in the early days of his troubles, when, as he phrased it, "the prison door seemed slowly swinging to." It is a glove of very thin yellow cotton, on

the fingers and palm of which are stamped in black in alphabetical order the twenty-six letters of the alphabet. Heady very quickly grew familiar with the exact positions of these letters, and his most intimate friends, who had frequent practice, could by tapping spell out words to his sense of touch almost as fast as an expert typist could tap the keys. Perhaps the sentence oftenest picked out on that talking-glove was one spelt slowly by the children, "Tell us a story, Uncle Morrie." For Heady had the good fortune to be beloved by more than one generation of children, and the older, grown-up children persuaded him when he was somewhere about eighty years old to publish a book of his children's stories. The author himself fondly referred to this book of tales for the youngsters as his "Labour of Love."

"The Double Night and other Poems" is his best known work. He was the author of "Burl," a tale of the Kentucky frontier war, "The Red Moccasins," a story of Kentucky Indian days, and several biographical romances dealing with the heroes of America in the making.

His inventions are various, some of them trivial and amusing, others quite importantly useful; all of them remarkably ingenious. There is a violin that plays by means of a crank with a weird rotary motion, and a coffee-pot with hollow lid to hold cold, condensing water, so that the aroma shall not waft away in steam, and a dozen or more oddly differing devices. But his talking-glove and his bright little typewriter of shining steel on which by means of a very few keys the blind can type letters to one another in Braille remain his most important inventions.

Morrison Heady had always been interested in architecture when but a lad, and had he kept his sight would probably have spent his life in the construction of buildings and bridges. Even as things turned out, his dauntless brain would work out for itself, in

the dark, model buildings of all sorts. His friends many a time found wooden models of public libraries, schools, stores or houses, placed on out-of-the-way shelves in his room. When an idea for a new structure took possession of him he would at once deftly fit together small blocks of wood, making a model that showed itself not only ingenious but artistic. Morrison Heady's love for big dogs and small children has always met a devoted response from both, while his cheery disposition has ever stood him in as good stead as his ready sense of humour. His sense of humour, he has often said, "has been the spring wagon that has lifted me easily over some of the roughest places in life." S. B. P.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Life of R. L. Stevenson, 5 vols.....*Graham Balfour*
Doctrine of the Heart.....*Foreword by Mrs. Besant*
Armenian Legends and Poems, 3 vols.

Compiled by *Z. Boyajian*
Short History of England, 3 vols....*G. K. Chesterton*
Oxford Book of English Verse, 11 vols.

Chosen and Edited by *Sir A. T. Quiller Couch*
British Campaign in France and Flanders, 1915,
3 vols.....*Sir A. Conan Doyle*
Abiding Presence of the Holy Ghost, 2 vols.

The Very Rev. Bede Jarrett, O.P.
Grand Fleet, 1914-16, 3 vols.*Admiral Viscount Jellicoe*
Hopes and Fears for Art, 3 vols.....*William Morris*
Plutarch's Lives (Extracts) 6 vols.

Translated by *Sir T. North*
Victory over Blindness, 2 vols. ...*Sir C. A. Pearson*
Studies in the Lesser Mysteries, 2 vols.

F. G. M. Powell
Joseph Conrad, 1 vol.*Hugh Walpole*

FICTION.

Stranleigh's Millions, 4 vols.*Robert Barr*
Minniglen, 5 vols.*A. and E. Castle*
Clengarry Days, 3 vols.*Ralph Connor*
Uncommercial Traveller, 5 vols.*C. Dickens*
Great Portrait Mystery, 3 vols. (uncontracted Braille)

R. A. Freeman
Arsene Lupin, 5 vols. (uncontracted Braille)

E. Jepson and M. Leblanc
Annette of the Argonne, 3 vols ...*William le Queux*
Hearts of Three, 6 vols.*Jack London*
Jerry of the Islands, 4 vols.*Jack London*
Gran'ma's Jane, 5 vols.....*Mary Mann*

Flower of the Lily, 7 vols.*Baroness Orczy*
Raggilug, 2 vols.*E. Seton-Thompson*
Karen, 4 vols.*Mrs. A. Sidgwick*
Little Comrade, 3 vols.*B. E. Stevenson*
David and Jonathan, 3 vols.....*E. Temple Thurston*
Loot, 4 vols.....*H. A. Vachell*
Just Patty, 3 vols.*Jean Webster*
My Honey, 3 vols.*Miss Whitaker*

GRADE III.

A Short History of England, 2 vols. *G. K. Chesterton*
Casting Out Fear, 1 vol.....*F. B. Guest*

OBITUARY.

IT was with very much regret that we read of the death of Mr. Alfred Eyre, which took place on October 11th, at Upper Norwood. Mr. Eyre, who some years ago was organist of the Crystal Palace and who held the post of organist of St. John's, Upper Norwood, up to the time of his death, was one of the professors at the Royal Normal College, where he gave lessons in singing and trained the choir.

In the concert of the National Institute last March we had a splendid opportunity of seeing the results of his choir training, everyone present on that occasion being greatly delighted with the choral items on the programme, contributed by the R.N.C. students. Mr. Eyre was not only a fine musician, but he was one of the most genial and kindly of men, and it was a real pleasure to be in any way associated with him.

In his home music was all pervading, Mrs. Eyre being an excellent pianist, and the Misses Eyre playing respectively the piano, violin, and 'cello, and singing vocal trios most charmingly. They gave full evidence of their ability both as vocalists and instrumentalists at the Institute concert in February, 1918, at which Mr. and Mrs. Eyre were also present.

To church-goers the name of Eyre is very familiar, for his Communion in E flat is one of the most popular and, we may add, one of the most devotional of services, while Eyre in C and E, though less frequently heard, is also a fine service, the Kyries being among the best we know, and the Creed and Sanctus being original and strong.

Mr. Eyre took a very keen interest in the blind, to whom he was a real friend, and all those who knew him will remember him—in the words of a newspaper notice—"as one of the most lovable of men."

H. C. WARRILOW (Director of Music)

OOOO

A HOSTEL for blind women workers has recently been opened at Tyndall's Park, Bristol. It provides accommodation for some thirty inmates, and is within ten minutes' walking distance of the workshops, which are controlled by the Bristol Blind Asylum. The hostel was purchased and presented to the Committee of the Blind Asylum by Mr. H. H. Wills.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—NO. 37.

JANUARY, 1920.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.



“OF all sounds of all bells,” said Charles Lamb, “most solemn and touching is the peal which rings out the Old Year. I never hear it without a gathering up of my mind to a concentration of all the images that have been diffused over the last twelve months: all I have suffered, performed, or neglected in that regretted time, I begin to know its worth, as when a person dies.”

There are probably few amongst us who do not share these feelings as we bid farewell to the Old Year and wonder what the Pandora's casket of the future holds in store for us. Many indeed are the unfulfilled hopes and wishes of the year that has gone. Last year in our New Year's Editorial we spoke of the wonderful new world that is to be built up after the sorrows and sufferings of the war. If the process is proving to be a far slower one than we had hoped for, we must not despair. We cannot expect that the work of reconstruction should be rapid. Nothing was ever done well or proved of lasting good that was done in a hurry, and it is by steady exertion and patient individual effort alone that we shall advance. The world rejoices in the victory of the humane and liberal cause over the cause of tyranny and force, but the universal wreckage is too great to be quickly repaired. There is not a European nation which has not been profoundly shaken, and innumerable difficulties, both in industry and politics, abound

in this and every other country. The new world must be built up little by little and with infinite care; in so doing let us turn from the past without forgetting it, for its achievements and its mistakes are the bricks and mortar of reconstruction.

Among the manifold problems which are being so vigorously and successfully tackled is that of finding suitable work for the men who have sacrificed health and limbs in order that we might live, and, first of all, of providing them with the training necessary for their new tasks. Without adequate preliminary training no effective work can be accomplished, and this applies to all workers, whatever the sphere of work, and to mind as well as body.

As regards the important factor of the Higher Education of the Blind, we have one announcement to make which will, we are sure, be appreciated by all our readers.

The Pelman Institute has, with the generous sympathy and co-operation of Sir Arthur Pearson, determined to allow all blind persons in the United Kingdom who care so to do, to take up the Pelman Course of Mind and Memory Training, free of all charge. The complete course will be sent out in Braille in the ordinary way from the Pelman Institute (4, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1), to whom all enquiries must be addressed, the National Institute for the Blind being the publishers of the work for the Pelman Institute.

We are convinced that there are a great number of blind people who will be anxious to avail themselves of this generous offer, and we ourselves confidently recommend all our readers who are desirous of embarking on the very interesting and valuable

course of Mind and Memory Training to avail themselves of the opportunity now afforded.

Again and again in these pages we have urged the uselessness of pity and the need for practical sympathy as regards the blind, and every effort to stimulate the inward vision of those who are bereft of physical sight must be hailed with delight.

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE.

THE power of music to give expression to a great variety of human emotion was abundantly demonstrated on Tuesday, December 9th, when the Templars Male Quartette contributed the bulk of the programme. The Quartette consists of Messrs. Norman M. Stone, A. Capel Dixon, Frank C. Hastwell, and John Halford, all of whom, I believe, are members of the Temple Church choir.

Old melodies were drawn upon for the first group of Quartettes, and special mention

must be made of "Willow, Willow," the plaintive character of which was expressively brought out. The second group was made up entirely of modern part-songs; perhaps the best of these being Elgar's "After Many a Dusty Mile" and Herbert Howell's "The Dirge."

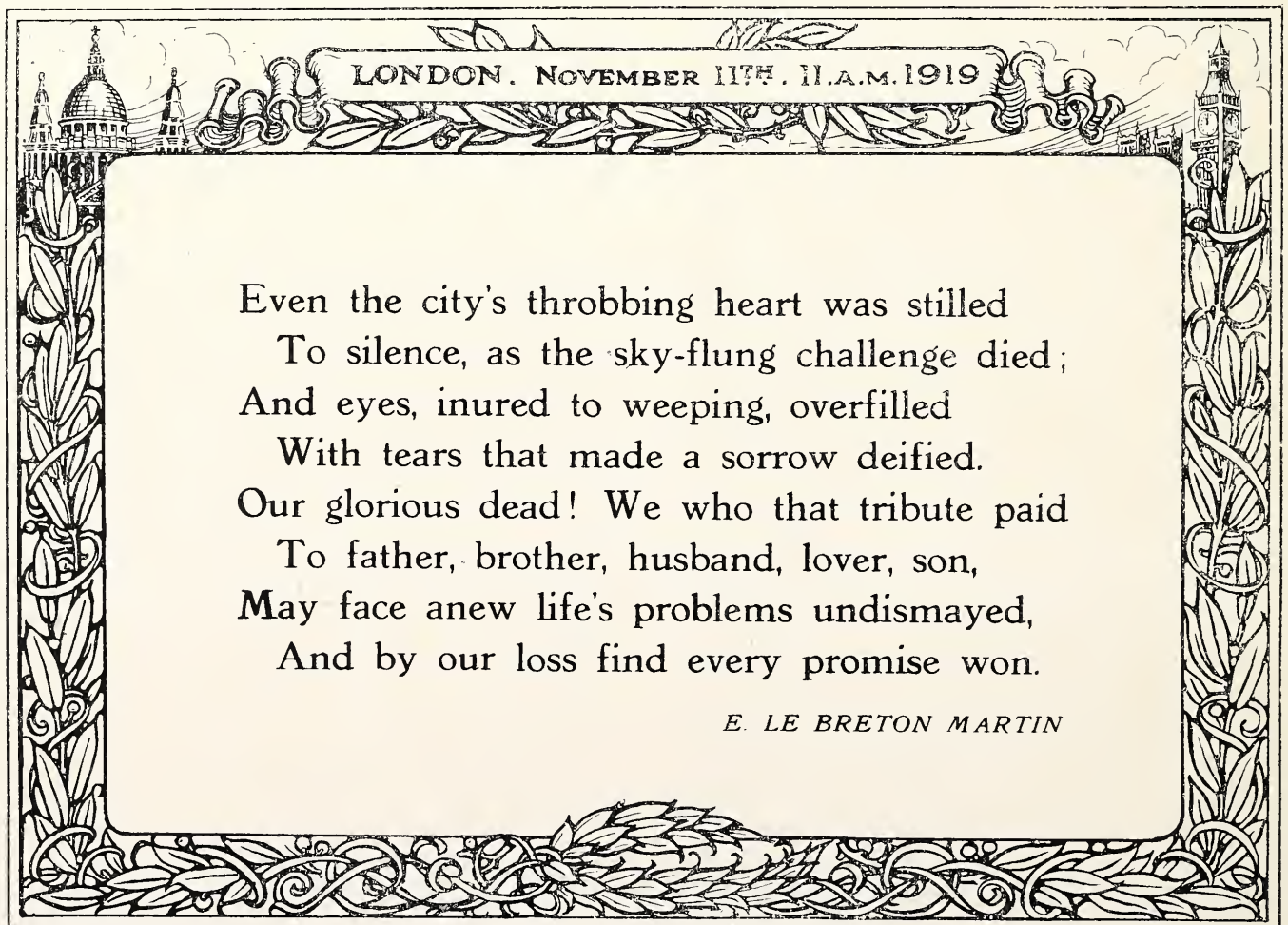
The third group consisted of old and new, commencing with two strong numbers by Walford Davies, and concluding appropriately with that beautiful little Christmas carol, "A Babe lies in the Cradle."

The vocal numbers were varied by piano solos from M. Raphaël Menasce, a blind French pianist, who gave "Nocturne in E" and "Impromptu in G flat," by Chopin, Liszt's "Rigoletto Fantasia," and two "Romances," by Godard and Raff. Smooth and delicate touch, together with an easy style in performance, were conspicuous in all his pieces.

H. C. WARRILOW (Director of Music).

OOOO

WRITE it in your heart that every day is the best day in the year.—*Emerson*.



ESPERANTO FOR THE BLIND.

THE idea of an international language is no new one, but it may not perhaps have occurred to everyone that such a language is of special benefit to the blind of different nations. In an extremely interesting address, of which we have just received a copy, read before the National Library for the Blind, Westminster, Miss H. E. Boord sets forth the general advantages of an international language and the particular advantages it has for the blind. Miss Boord advocates Esperanto as being the best artificial language, because its author, Dr. Zamehof, who was a great linguist, worked on the general lines of choosing the rootword common to most languages. It is phonetic, has the simplest possible grammar, and is easy to learn.

Esperanto benefits those who have lost their sight by offering a means of intercourse with the blind of other countries, and opens up foreign literature without the enormous difficulties of learning the different languages of each separate nation—difficulties which are infinitely greater for the blind than for the sighted. One grammar or one dictionary of any foreign language is represented by several volumes of considerable size and bulk in Braille—Esperanto provides a grammar in one Braille volume and a dictionary in two. It also means the cheapening of foreign literature for the blind. One press for one Braille book in one language for the whole blind world will send out that book at a far lower price than would be charged if the same book were printed in many languages on many different presses.

As already stated in the September issue of *The Beacon*, the National Institute for the Blind has recognized the usefulness of Esperanto for the blind by financing to the extent of £250 per annum, if necessary, a monthly magazine in Esperanto-Braille, *La Esperanta Ligilo*, edited by Mr. H. Thilander, of Stockholm.

It is Mr. Thilander's great hope that the Esperanto Section of the National Library for the Blind, which already numbers 270 works, may be the nucleus of an International Esperanto Library for the Blind of the whole civilized world.

THE PRINCE AND THE BLIND.

DURING his recent visit to Halifax, the Prince of Wales had an enthusiastic reception at the School for the Blind in that city. His Royal Highness was received at the institution by Sir Frederick and Lady Fraser, and Mr. Archibald (the President of the Board of Directors). In the Assembly Hall the pupils stood on each side of the big organ—the girls all dressed in white—and sang, "Oh, Canada," and "God Save the King."

Sir Robert Borden said that as the pupils were unable to see His Royal Highness, they would be glad to hear his voice.

The Prince thereupon assured them of the pleasure he felt at being able to visit them, and congratulated them on their singing. He begged Sir Frederick Fraser to grant them a whole day's holiday.

As the party left the Assembly Hall the pupils gave three rousing cheers for the Prince of Wales.

A GIFTED VIOLINIST.

MORE lucky than most of us who are blessed with the gift of sight, Mr. Ernest Whitfield has gained from the infliction of sorely impaired vision a power of mental intuition which is given to few of his rival violinists.

At his recital at the Æolian Hall on November 4th he conclusively proved—and that by no means for the first time—that few interpretative secrets were hidden from him. Of his technical skill it is quite unnecessary to speak, in view of his already established reputation. But it would be hopelessly unfair to pay no due tribute to the perceptive tenderness and insight which enabled him to reveal the Elgar E minor Sonata as the thing of beauty it undoubtedly is.

After this work Mr. Whitfield had an easy task in dealing with the Sibelius D minor Concerto and some smaller numbers.

Mr. Arthur Alexander helped efficiently at the piano.

Daily Telegraph.

PRESENTATION TO SIR ARTHUR PEARSON BY MEN OF ST. DUNSTAN'S.



PRESENTATION, consisting of a most handsome carved mahogany desk, with two armchairs and swivel-chair to match, and a beautiful massive silver inkstand, was made to Sir Arthur Pearson, on December 15th, by the blinded soldiers and sailors of St. Dunstan's Hostel, Regent's Park. The ceremony took place in the large Lounge at St. Dunstan's, and was most impressive in its expression of the devotion of the men of St. Dunstan's to their Chief.

Capt. Fraser, who manages the important After-Care work at St. Dunstan's, in a speech which aptly conveyed the feelings of all, presented the gift, reading out the following words inscribed on the inkstand:—

"On December 15th, 1919, the officers, non-commissioned officers and men who have been blinded in the war presented to Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E., this inkstand, the writing-table upon which it stands, and three accompanying chairs, to furnish his office and remind him always of the love and gratitude they have for him who led them to 'Victory Over Blindness.'"

Sir Arthur Pearson's reply, which was frequently interrupted by loud applause from the audience, was as follows:—

"I am not exaggerating in the least when I say that I value the very handsome present which you have just given me far more than I value any present that I have ever received. And this is not on account of its obviously great intrinsic worth nearly so much as on account of the evidence it gives of a state of feeling which I desire very earnestly, I mean the feeling of regard, and I hope I may say, affection, held for me by the men of St. Dunstan's. For nearly five years I have given practically the whole of my time to St. Dunstan's, and I am far and away prouder of the results of the expenditure of that time than of any other results which I have achieved in my busy life. I have

founded and managed some big businesses; I have organised and directed some important public enterprises, such as the Tariff Reform League and the collecting branch of the National Relief Fund; my Fresh Air Fund has sent millions of children for a day and tens of thousands for a fortnight from the poorest quarters of our great cities to the country or the seaside, and I have had a good deal to do with improvements which have been effected, and which, I am glad to say, will shortly be much increased, in the unsatisfactory conditions under which the vast majority of the blind civil population of the kingdom are unfortunately forced to live. I do not say these things because I want to boast, but because I want to emphasise the fact that I am far prouder of St. Dunstan's than of anything else which I have ever done.

"War Profiteers have been held up to public execration of late. All the same, I must confess to being one of them. But my profits have not been in money. The additional balance in my favour does not lie at any bank; it exists in the great accumulation of regard and affection which I make bold to believe that the men of St. Dunstan's have for me.

"That affection and regard is most fully returned, for at St. Dunstan's I have received as much help and encouragement as I have given.

"I know that in honouring me as you have to-day you are honouring the figure-head of St. Dunstan's, and that your gift to me symbolises the sincere appreciation which you have for the able, loyal and sympathetic staff whose members have enabled the high ideals with which I set out upon the founding of St. Dunstan's to be accomplished with such a brilliant measure of success. I do not believe that a more admirable body of helpers have ever worked together, and I am sure that I am correctly expressing your feelings when I say that in giving a proof of your appreciation to me,

you are at the same time showing your appreciation of the great services which they have all rendered to you.

"Let me again, with all the sincerity at my command, thank you for those tokens of your regard and goodwill. They will always furnish my working-room, wherever that working-room may be, and added to them will be the clock, the silver cigar-box, the barometer and the cigar cabinet which you and your comrades who have left have given me in the past. When I have passed away, my son will, I know, look upon them with the greatest pride, and I shall leave directions that they are to be regarded as heirlooms in my family so long as that family continues to exist."

OOOO

IN the October number of *The Light to the Blind*, the organ of the Indian Association of Workers for the Blind, attention is drawn to the urgent necessity for the provision of educational facilities for the blind and the deaf and the dumb in India. While these number nearly 800,000, there are only twenty schools for them in the whole of India and Burma. A memorandum on education in Mysore, where one school has to serve 5,081 adults and children requiring special instruction, urges the Government of Mysore to make fuller provision for the education of the blind and the deaf and dumb.

OOOO

THOSE who bring sunshine to lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.—*Barrie*.

ST. DUNSTAN'S PIERROTS VARIETY CONCERT.

THE St. Dunstan's men showed what they could do as entertainers last month, and amongst themselves they arranged a remarkably fine variety concert, which took place in the Outer Lounge at St. Dunstan's.

The show was admirably staged, and went with a swing and a verve worthy of the Follies.

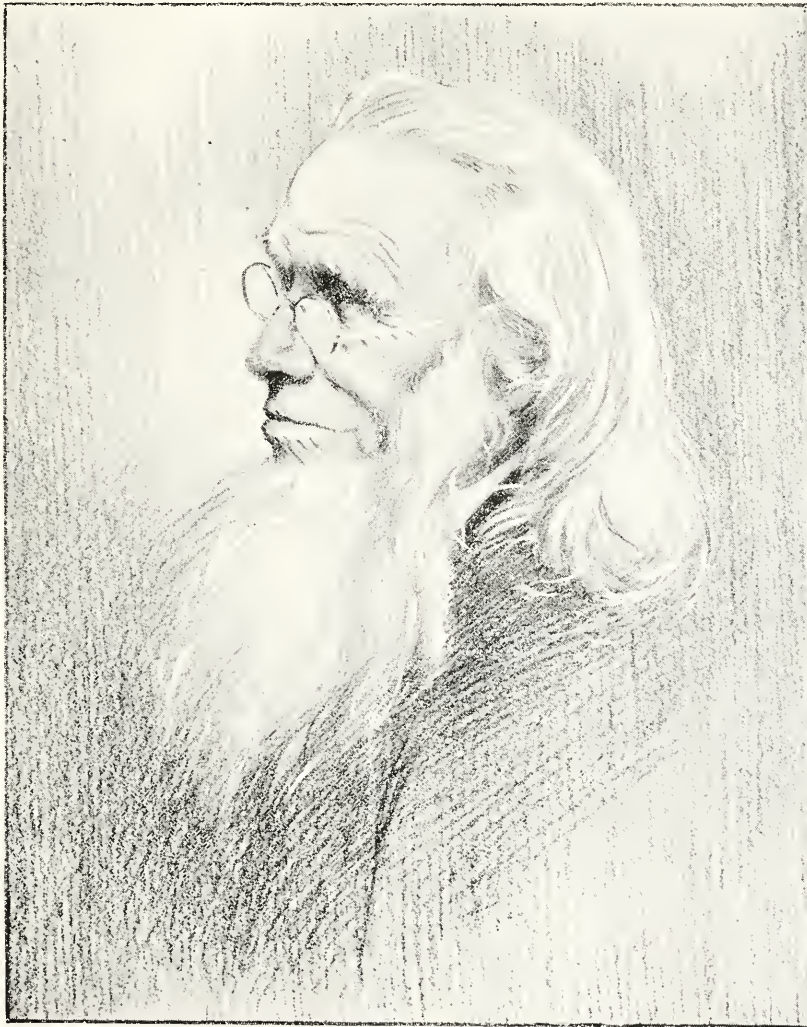
There is plenty of talent at St. Dunstan's. Mr. C. E. Thomas has a fine tenor voice, and sang "Rosebud" and "Easter Flowers" with excellent taste. Mr. J. Greig's "Memories" was also loudly applauded, while Mr. D. Gamble and Mr. P. Spurgeon rattled off humorous songs in splendid style. A 'cello solo by Mr. S. Wright was perhaps the most popular item, if we except the Topical Chorus arranged by the Pierrots, which convulsed the audience with laughter.

The music was arranged by Miss Sybil Bald, and the Pierrots were kindly

assisted by Miss Janie Blake and Miss Elsie Brown.

OOOO

DR. ADDISON, the Minister of Health, has appointed Mr. A. L. Lowe, C.B.E., and Miss Alice L. Wallace to be members of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind.



A PORTRAIT OF MORRISON HEADY, THE DEAF-BLIND POET, AN ACCOUNT OF WHOSE LIFE APPEARED IN LAST MONTH'S *Beacon*.

"THROUGH ST. DUNSTAN'S TO LIGHT."



THROUGH ST. DUNSTAN'S TO LIGHT" is a remarkable book which tells of the personal experiences of one of the blinded soldiers, a remarkable man who "won through" in spite of his terrible handicap. On June 7th, 1917, Private James H. Rawlinson, of the Canadian Forces, was out before dawn with a working-party "somewhere in France," when the ominous droning of an enemy aeroplane was heard overhead. In answer to its signals the enemy guns opened up with a terrific fire, which continued for about three-quarters of an hour. The little party was congratulating itself upon the fact that they had passed through the ordeal unscathed when suddenly a 5.9 inch shell fell short. For Rawlinson the dawn never rose, for "I felt a sting in my right temple," he writes, "and then the world became black."

Through all the pain of body and mind which followed—during the jolting and bumping of the journey to the Casualty Clearing Station, the sojourn at the hospital at St. Omer and at Boulogne, where his right eye was removed, Rawlinson never seems (outwardly at least) to have lost courage. "No matter how windy one is," he writes "it would never do to let the other fellow know it, at least not while you are wearing the uniform of the Canadians." It was Capt. Towse, V.C., of Boer War fame, who first told him that he was blind for life. He describes how he received the news while at Boulogne: "I gathered myself together as best I could under the circumstances and said, 'That's a h— of a thing to tell a guy.'" The Captain praised his soldier-like bearing under misfortune, and asked him a string of questions concerning himself. "While the Captain was questioning me I heard a rapid, clicking sound following each of my answers. The noise fascinated me, and I made bold to ask him what it was. 'It's a Braille machine,'

he replied, 'I am taking down your answers.'" He then began to explain its use, and gradually it began to dawn upon the sufferer that the world of usefulness was not closed to the blind. Captain Towse then told him all about St. Dunstan's.

Rawlinson was next sent to St. George's Hospital, and from there to No. 2 London General Hospital. Here he made the acquaintance of the man whom he describes as "one of the geniuses of the present age, who spends his life working not with clay or marble, or wood or metal, but with human beings, taking the derelicts of life and moulding them into useful vessels. My meeting with Sir Arthur Pearson," writes Rawlinson, "occurred in the following manner: The ward door was open; suddenly from the direction of the door a cheery voice exclaimed, 'Are any new men here? Where's Rawlinson?' I answered, 'Right here, sir, but who are you?' 'Well, Rawlinson, and how are you getting along? When do they figure on letting you get away from here? You know, we are waiting for you at St. Dunstan's.'" Rawlinson had already heard a great deal about Sir Arthur, but he says that the being conjured up by his imagination fell far short of the real man. "He did not come to your bedside commiserating with you over your misfortune. We talked and smoked, the knight and the private soldier, both blind, but both completely ignoring the fact. During our talk darkness seemed to vanish, and I saw a great light—the battle could be won, and I would win it."

While still in hospital Rawlinson started to learn Braille. No. 2 General Hospital was a sort of preparatory school for St. Dunstan's and the adjutant from one of the St. Dunstan's establishments came to read the newspapers and talk with the men who were to study under him. Rawlinson resolved to take up stenography and typewriting as his profession. He passed his typewriting test in less than three weeks. There follows an

animated picture of work and play at St. Dunstan's and a tribute to the spirit of the establishment as exemplified in the bearing of men and women alike during the air-raids.

The closing chapter, which he calls "The Point of View of the Sightless," is extremely interesting. Rawlinson tells us that since he has been sightless, two things have deeply impressed themselves upon his mind. The first is that no person with sight can or ever will be able to see from a blind man's point of view; the second, that no one who can see can ever understand or gauge a blind man's capabilities or limitations. "The man who has been blinded in battle has seen life—and death for that matter—stripped of all its frills and flounces. His mind and viewpoint have been enlarged and broadened by his life in the Army. He sees life from an angle that is denied the sightless. To be made into a wage-earner he must be handled rightly. He must not be 'molly-coddled;' to do so would be to leave him a burden to himself and to his friends. He must not be made to feel that he is an object to be set in a corner where he can hurt neither himself or others." Rawlinson speaks of the need for individual treatment of each "blind case"—a treatment so well meted out at St. Dunstan's. "Tact, patience and perseverance are the essentials for re-making a man who has lost his sight into what he desires to be—a being capable of earning a living and producing results in the world. For the attainment of this end two things are necessary—confidence and independence. Once he (the blind man) has learned these, he has won half his battle—a hard battle, how hard he alone realizes." That these two qualities were acquired by the writer is proved by the fact that he was very often deputed to give a welcome to the men "who were feeling rather harder than was thought necessary the darkness that enveloped them."

The writer is now back in Canada, earning his own living. He is able to take dictation in Braille shorthand at the rate of 120 words per minute and then transcribe his notes on any typewriting machine just as speedily as a sighted typist. And he never operated a typewriter before he became a student at St. Dunstan's!

"What I am," he writes in conclusion, "I owe to St. Dunstan's. I feel towards St. Dunstan's—and so do all the boys who have passed through her halls—as does the grown

man for the place of his birth. She is home for me. I was born again and nurtured into a new manhood by her, led by her from Stygian darkness to mental and spiritual light, and my heart turns with longing to her. At times, separation from the genial atmosphere of this paradise of the sightless, from contact with the dominating, kindly presence of Sir Arthur Pearson and his noble assistants, weighs heavily upon my spirits. But there is work to be done here in Canada, and in a humble way I am able to continue the good work done at St. Dunstan's; if not in a militant way, at least by example; taking my place among the producers, toiling daily with hands and brain."

THE VICTORY CONCERT.

THE KING AND QUEEN AT CLARA BUTT'S
CONCERT.

THERE was a huge audience at the Royal Albert Hall on December 9th, when Mme. Clara Butt gave a mammoth concert in aid of St. Dunstan's After-Care Fund, and the presence of the King and Queen, Princess Mary, and Prince Henry, produced a scene of indescribable enthusiasm. There was an enormous choir, which could best be described as a "Prima Donna" Choir, as it included everybody of name in the musical profession.

The programme was most attractive, including "Have you news of my boy, Jack?" sung by Mme. Clara Butt; "The Soldier's Return," whose verses were alternately sung and recited by Mme. Clara Butt and Lady Tree, while Mr. Kennerley Rumford sang "Here's a health unto His Majesty," and M. Bronislaw Huberman gave a violin solo.

But perhaps the playing by the massed bands of the Brigade of Guards of Jullien's grand descriptive fantasia, "The British Army," was the most popular item. The orchestra was filled by gorgeous uniforms, a sight to stir the most prosaic soul, and the pipers marched in single file through the Great Hall, finally forming a ring of khaki around the gold and scarlet of the band.

After Mme. Clara Butt had sung "Land of Hope and Glory," an aeroplane sank to the platform, presenting a bouquet of pink flowers to the great singer.

MUSIC AT SUNSHINE HOUSE.



MUSIC is doubtless destined to play an increasingly important part in the education of children, and perhaps it is not too much to say that its influence should begin from the cradle. For some time the children at Sunshine House, the National Institute's Blind Babies' Home at Chorley Wood, have been receiving regular musical training. An expert from the Institute's Musical Department goes over twice a week, and trains the children in the most up-to-date method of "Aural Culture," and it is wonderful to find how responsive these little children are to musical impressions. It is evident that music has a most vitalising effect upon them, and doubtless this is largely due to the way in which it is presented.

The importance of rhythmic training has only recently begun to be recognised. There is still a notion prevalent that it should come later in musical education, whereas it should take precedence not only of theoretical instruction, but also, in a certain sense, of musical sounds, for children can be taught to clap rhythmically long before they can sing a tune with any degree of accuracy.

The Chorley Wood children first learn to clap the strong beats while a piece of definitely marked rhythm is played. They then learn to distinguish between the strong and the weak beats, and to clap either the accents only, or all the beats. This is followed by the clapping of various rhythms, the teacher giving the rhythm either by clapping or playing it. Another plan is for the teacher to give the rhythm quietly to one child who beats it on the tambourine for the other children to imitate. This leads to the invention of a rhythm by the children themselves, which is given to the class in the same way. The rhythm established, it is presented in the form of a tune or scale by the teacher, or one of the children plays a note, or two

notes, in the rhythm selected, while the teacher plays harmonies above it and the class beat time.

Nursery rhymes and other simple tunes are played and sung, and the notes of the scale, in Tonic Sol-Fa terms, are introduced. The scale is also sung, note by note, round the class. The recreational character of musical instruction is always well to the fore, certain favourite songs being acted as as well as sung.

The gramophone, though admittedly an imperfect medium for musical expression, is doing excellent service, and a careful choice of records provides the children with a chance of hearing good music. The two "Carmen" records are special favourites, and in the major part of the Toreador's song, the lilt of the music impels the children to join in. As a contrast to this is the silent attention that prevails during a soft record, such as a violin solo.

It might be added that if there are any who suppose the loss of sight tends to deprive blind babies of the liveliness of sighted ones, there is ample proof to the contrary at Sunshine House. Not only in the acquisition of knowledge, but in every other respect, the Sunshine babies are full of energy and are, in fact, the most wide-awake little creatures.

H. C. WARRILOW.

oooo

"PAID OUT," by J. Perceval Bessell, Branch Secretary (Home Counties; offices, at 38, Queen Street, Oxford) of the National Institute for the Blind, is a thrilling tale of a crime and its detection. The book is exceedingly well written, and is full of dramatic situations, which follow each other like a series of cinema pictures. Not for a moment is the reader's attention permitted to flag, and a totally unexpected dénouement rounds off a story which is sure to delight a large number of readers.

BLIND MAN'S MODEL OF HIS HOME.

THE model of a house, shown in the accompanying illustrations, was made entirely by Mr. Broan, a blind organist. The model is that of his own home at Fulham, which he has never seen; and the work has taken him five years to complete. A novel feature is a bell which rings by means of a battery in the chimney; there are also brass rods on the stair carpets, a roof garden, and a fully equipped bathroom.

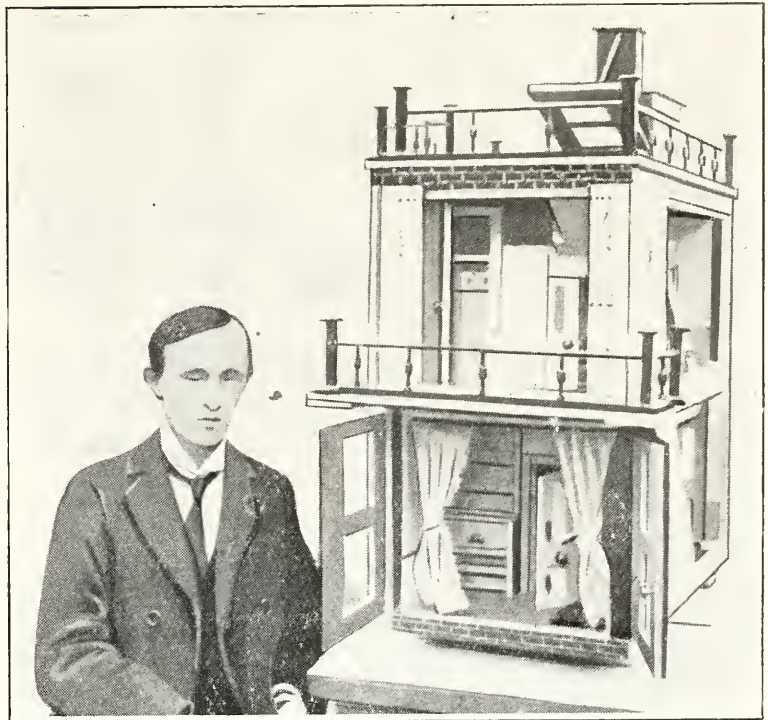
Mr. Broan teaches the organ and piano, and is in the wholesale paper-bag trade, but as a child he worried every carpenter he met, and carpentry, a family gift, is a passion with him.

The model was on sale at the St. Dunstan's Fair, on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th December, at the Central Hall, Westminster, in aid of St. Dunstan's Fund for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors.

OOOO

THE pleasure of life is according to the man who lives it, not according to the work or place.

Emerson.

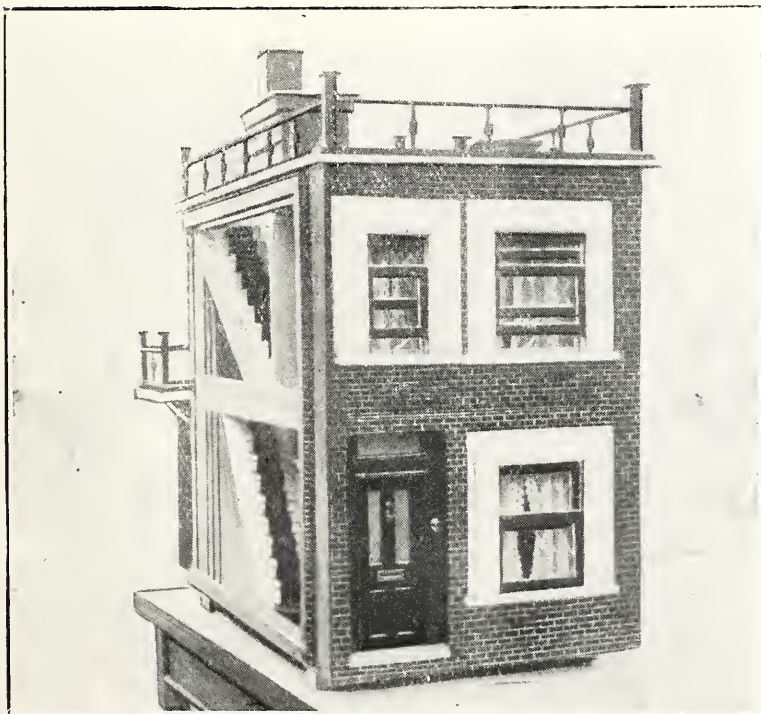


MR. BROAN BESIDE HIS MODEL.

MR. "PUSSYFOOT" JOHNSON'S GENEROSITY.

THE sum raised by the *Evening News* of £333 0s. 6d. as a tribute to the pluck and good nature shown by Mr. "Pussyfoot" Johnson, in connection with the loss of his eye recently in the students' rag, has, by Mr. Johnson's request, been handed over to St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors. The spirit shown by Mr. Johnson has been admirable, and this latest act of graceful sympathy towards the wholly blinded has been fully appreciated by everyone.

In a letter to a United Kingdom Alliance demonstration, Mr. Johnson said: "In a time like this the question of eyes seem quite important to me. It breeds reflection. . . . When it comes home to me what it means to lose one single eye, I am overwhelmed with thankfulness that I have been permitted by God's good will to contribute in some measure to the ending of a traffic in my country whose business it was to blot out each year not less than 60,000 pairs of eyes."



SIDE VIEW OF MR. BROAN'S MODEL.

THE BLINDED SOLDIER AS A MASSEUR.

By Major W. H. Broad, M.D., R.A.M.C.

[A Lecture delivered at the Medical Institution, Liverpool, on the 6th November, 1919.]



THE practice of massage has emerged from comparative obscurity before the war to occupy a quite important position, as it were, in the "lime-light" of modern methods of treatment. It is not one whit a more valuable means of treatment than formerly, but its value is now generally acknowledged at its true worth, as a result of the great opportunities which the war casualties have provided.

It is not very many years ago that, as a house surgeon at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, I made my first acquaintance with the art of massage. I recall the arrival in the ward of a determined-looking Swede, who entered stealthily, proceeded to his patient's bed, and when screens closely enveloped the party the séance began, and partook of the nature of a mystic and secret ritual or sacred religious rite in the sanctum sanctorum, the only evidence vouchsafed to outsiders being a furtive grunt or groan, but whether emanating from the masseur or his victim deponent knoweth not. Briefly, in those days massage was a mystery.

A year or two later, in 1904, it was my privilege to undertake a full course of instruction in massage and remedial exercises at Stockholm, and later at Professor Hoffe's clinic in Berlin, in order to learn fully the details of these methods of treatment and their especial application to the practice of orthopædic surgery. This I did on the suggestion of Sir (then Mr.) Robert Jones. It did not take me very long to find that massage, far from being a secret or occult art, was an eminently practical and valuable means of treatment, founded on scientific principles, and indeed formed part of the curriculum of the Swedish medical student.

Since then, both in my orthopædic practice and in my department at hospital, I have had

ample opportunity of proving the value of massage and remedial treatment, especially with regard to the restoration of function in reconstructural surgery.

I may mention that upwards of 8,000 war cases have received treatment under my personal supervision since 1914, of which close on 1,000 have been treated by blinded soldier masseurs.

Of the many and varied excellent institutions which the emergencies and necessities of the Great War have established, surely pride of place must be awarded to St. Dunstan's Hostel for our blinded heroes. The very mention of St. Dunstan's suggests at once the name of Sir Arthur Pearson, who has devoted his able services and unbounded enthusiasm to the welfare of the blinded soldier and sailor, and whose laudable and generous endeavours have been crowned with remarkable and deserving success.

It was my good fortune to be present on a recent occasion at a dinner of St. Dunstan's Masseurs, when I was particularly struck by the prevailing sense of optimism which seemed to abound, and a more cheery, bright and hopeful party than Sir Arthur Pearson and "his boys"—as he affectionately termed them—it would be difficult to find.

Of the many handicrafts, trades or accomplishments to which the blinded soldiers may apply themselves, massage, in my opinion, is the one "par excellence" to which the better educated soldier is particularly suited. His disability prevents him from indulging in very much recreation, whether it be in the form of either indoor or outdoor games, reading, or the usual forms of enjoyment, hence his whole thoughts and energies are centred on his occupation, the consequence being a keenness of interest in and enthusiasm for his work, which results in a proficiency that is a credit to himself and an advantage to his patients. Further, the cheerful optimism to which I have above referred, is a valuable asset to the armamentarium of the masseur, the

personal equation playing, as it does, a very important part in the treatment by massage, by inspiring confidence and by combating the pessimism so often prevalent in cases requiring prolonged treatment.

It is a well-known fact that when one of the senses is diminished in usefulness, by the law of compensation the remaining senses develop greater acuity. This is especially apparent in the blinded man as regards the senses of hearing and touch. It is remarkable how quickly the blinded masseur exhibits the value of his improved sense of touch, and I have personally seen many outstanding examples of this particular capacity.

One of the first of the blinded soldiers to qualify as a masseur at St. Dunstan's was sent to Alder Hey Military Orthopædic Hospital, in the person of Mr. Cook, and so efficient did he prove that we applied for as many more blinded masseurs as were available.

We have had altogether seven ex-soldiers from St. Dunstan's, and, without exception, they have proved excellent workers, being punctual, industrious and absolutely reliable. Mr. Cook especially has proved his worth. During the winter session in 1918 at the Liverpool University, a post-graduate course for masseurs and masseuses was held, the subjects including the theory of massage, practical anatomy and electro-therapeutics. There were fourteen members of the class, and Mr. Cook was the only blind member. At the terminal examination Mr. Cook was easily first, averaging the remarkable percentage of 90 per cent. in each subject.

At Alder Hey we treat from 500 to 600 cases per day in the massage departments, and when one proceeds on a round of inspection it is in the nature of a personal pleasure and pride to find how well informed the blinded masseur is with regard to the full details of his particular patients. He will promptly supply the name of the patient, his particular injury, the date thereof, subsequent operations, both their nature and date, electrical reactions, progress; in fact, the full clinical history.

Throughout the country generally there is almost a plethora of masseuses in private practice, and masseurs with few exceptions are Swedes, who make (certainly in Liverpool) a lucrative living. Frequently it happens that a patient may prefer to be treated by a masseur, and in other instances especially vigorous treatment which may be beyond the physical powers of a masseuse

may be required; from all of which it appears that there is certainly an opportunity for blinded masseurs to supply the need and to make a fairly good living.

Although at the present moment there are many positions for masseurs in Military and Pensions Hospitals, these will, before very long, be considerably reduced. I suggested the opening of a clinic in Liverpool to Mr. Cook and his confrères, to be staffed by themselves, where they could start as an independent business, where patients could be treated by massage, remedial exercises and the simpler forms of electro-therapeutic treatment. Such a clinic, fully equipped, is now in existence—at 4, Hargreaves Buildings, Chapel Street, Liverpool.

They desire to work entirely under the auspices of the medical profession, and intend to take only cases which have been sent by a medical man or woman. Hence, if they are to succeed, it must be by the solid support and practical help of the faculty. I am personally prepared to vouch for the competence of each member of the staff to apply careful and capable treatment, and I do not hesitate to state that, as a result of their most varied and extensive clinical experience, they can rise superior to the Swedish exponents of the art.

And be it well understood, this is no appeal for charity, but a practical business proposition, in that a sound and good article, in the form of efficient expert treatment, is being given in return for a fair remuneration for services rendered.

The whole object of this short article is to bring to the notice of the members of this Institution the concrete fact that this clinic has been established. I am confident that when it is widely known that efficient treatment can be obtained, and that at the same time these *British* heroes, who have been deprived of that most precious possession, the sense of sight, in fighting their own and our country's cause, can be assisted to earn an honest living, no appeal will be required from me, nor from anyone else, to help them on to the success they so richly deserve.

OOOO

THE Queen of Spain, Prince Jaime, and Princess Beatrice were among the large audience which enjoyed a delightful entertainment at the Queen's Theatre on November 28th, in aid of the Blind Babies' Home at Chorley Wood. The whole programme was made up of dancing of every description.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.



THE last annual report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education is to hand, and contains a great amount of useful information. Of especial interest to us are the sections which deal with the education and training of blind children. There are two departments which are concerned with the welfare of the blind in England and Wales: The Ministry of Health and the Board of Education. The Ministry of Health is primarily concerned with the duties affecting the industrial and social welfare of the blind worker (a résumé of the report issued by the Advisory Committee was published in the September number of *The Beacon*). The Board of Education is charged with the educational welfare of the blind child and adolescent in respect of the Education Acts, 1870-1918, and of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf) Children Act, 1893. The Board have power to aid the education of the blind under

1. The Regulations for the Substantive Grant for Elementary Education.
2. The Provisional Regulations for Special Schools and Evening Play Centres.
3. The Regulations for Institutions providing instruction in preparation for a trade for students formerly in attendance at Special Schools.
4. The Regulations for Technical Schools (Evening Classes).

The Regulations cover the educational needs of the blind from the age of two years upwards, extending in the first instance to the age of sixteen, which is the limit of elementary school age. Beyond the age of sixteen provision is made in the Special Schools Regulations for aid in respect of instruction given in the preparation for a trade. The scope of training encouraged by

the Board includes the following educational phases :—

1. The Nursery School for the Blind.
2. The Elementary School.
3. The School for Myopes and Partially Sighted Children.
4. The Trade School.
5. The Secondary School.
6. The Evening School.

The inspection and supervision of Schools and Institutions for the Blind are conducted by the Medical Department of the Board. The Board's medical officers visit each school periodically and report upon matters affecting admission and retention of children, premises, sanitation, provision for sickness, etc., as well as upon the general, manual, and physical training, examination of pupils, domestic arrangements, and after-care. The school medical service, with its staff of medical officers and nurses, its associated care committees, and school attendance officers, make it difficult for a blind child to escape the attention of the Local Education Authority.

It is important that nursery school provision should be made for the child who starts life with impaired vision. From infancy it should have the advantages of medical and nutritional treatment, of training in proper habits, of play and open-air activities, in order that a good physique may be established, any condition of disease arrested, and the sight saved as far as possible. The Nursery School established at Chorley Wood by the National Institute for the Blind fulfils the ideal of a Nursery Special School. Kindergarten Departments and rooms are provided also at the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, and at Wavertree. The Royal Normal College, Norwood, is aided under the Board's Regulations for the Training of Teachers in Elementary Schools. Among its many activities the college is devoted to

the training of blind teachers for service in blind schools. The examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind is recognized by the Board as satisfying the conditions in regard to an examination approved by the Board in methods of teaching in schools for the blind. The office of the College is at 224-228, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Passing from the Nursery School and Kindergarten, we come to the Elementary School for the Blind, in which are found the majority of blind pupils for whom elementary provision is made. They are housed mainly in residential institutions, where the education is continuous, and where there are ample opportunities for physical welfare and medical supervision. The curriculum of the Elementary School for the Blind includes broadly four sections:—1. General training in English, arithmetic, and allied subjects. 2. Physical training. 3. Manual training. 4. Musical training. General education follows the lines adopted in the public elementary schools, with the necessary adaptations, such as Braille for reading and writing, relief maps for geography, etc. Physical training is conducted largely on the Board's Syllabus of Physical Exercises. Gymnastics form a larger part of the course in blind institutions than in ordinary schools. The need for manual training is emphasized in the case of the young blind child. The training begins on informal lines by educating the child to wash, dress, and feed himself, and to take proper care of his person. Proceeding from these beginnings, a commencement may be made in school with coarser movements involved in fraying woven materials, then through coarse weaving and kindergarten exercises to movements requiring finer co-ordination and sense perception, such as bead threading, raffia work, and clay modelling. Passing through this stage the blind children arrive at an age when manual training assumes a more definite trend in anticipation of industrial work. For the elder children the occupations approximate to those of the workshop, and include light basket-making, rug-weaving, mat-making, brush-making, woodwork, type-writing, Braille shorthand, machine and hand-knitting, chair-caning and weaving.

Musical training plays a large part in the life of a blind child, and increasing attention is being given to this subject in the blind school, apart from any consideration affecting the vocational value of the instruction.

Pupils are being taught to enjoy music, even though they may never become musicians.

At the age of sixteen the blind child ceases to attend the Elementary School, and is ready for further training. Opportunity for vocational training is provided through the courses in industrial and professional occupations established at centres recognized for grant by the Board. There is only one Secondary School for the Blind recognized by the Board—the Worcester College for the Higher Education of Blind Boys. The establishment of a college for the higher education of girls and women is in contemplation by the National Institute for the Blind, of which Sir Arthur Pearson is President.

Medical inspection has brought to light the fact that there are a number of children who, though blind within the meaning of the Act, possess sufficient sight to justify the anticipation that they can work as sighted persons and not in a school for the blind. In the majority of cases these children suffer from serious defects of eyesight, such as a high degree of myopia. They are subject to frequent inspection by an oculist, with a view to determining whether the defects have improved or otherwise—whether the child should be retained at the school or transferred either to a school for the blind or to a public elementary school. A considerable number of children fail to find admission to schools for the blind on account of the presence of some other defect. The small institution at Hastings accommodates thirty-nine blind mentally defectives, and beyond this there is no recognized accommodation for such cases. An important feature of the work for blind children is the compilation of after-care records.

The concluding paragraphs of this section of the report are devoted to an appreciation of the work at St. Dunstan's, and a summing-up of the numerous developments which have taken place in the education of the blind during the last twenty-five years.

OOOO

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

DR. ADDISON, the Minister of Health, has appointed Henry J. Wilson, Esq., to be Chairman, and Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., to be Vice-Chairman, of the above Committee.

"KEITH'S DARK TOWER."

A NOVEL WITH A BLIND HERO, BUT WITH NO HEROICS.*



UNDERSTANDING lights the pages of this story. The author of "Keith's Dark Tower" writes of what she knows, and the reader feels it almost certain that this writer has the intimate friendship of some brave soul whose feet are set upon the long, dark trail. The book is packed with common sense. There is an entire absence of mawkish sentimentality. Blindness is regarded as a handicap, not an affliction, and there is an alert appreciation of the blind man's tough job if he is to make good.

Keith Burton loses his sight when he is fourteen. He does not immediately become a hero; on the other hand, he is often irritable, awkward and obstinate, particularly when waited upon by a misguided aunt who thinks that "Keithie, dear" should be spoon-fed on milk foods and beef teas, and bathed and dressed as if he were a long-clothes infant.

But Susan the "hired domestic" was the sanest person in that lonely house. Keith was the only son of a widower. Susan with her Malapropisms and her poetry—her "fuse" always worked best at night, declared this "unbleachable character"—Susan was a host in herself and had a cheerful bit of doggerel ready to fetch a smile instead of a sob at a minute's notice.

"What do you s'pose your poor old Susan's been doin'?" she said to Keith when the lad was first stricken with blindness. "For the last three mornin's she's tied up her eyes with a handkerchief an' then *dressed* herself, jest to make sure it *could* be done, you know."

"Susan, did you really?" For the first time a faint trace of interest came into the boy's face.

"Sure I did! It took me twenty-five minutes the first time. Dear, but I was

clumsy! I can do it lots quicker now, but nothing like as quick as you will."

Yes, Susan knew the way to put a boy of fourteen on his mettle.

So, day by day, the various obstacles and difficulties were cheerily met till Keith "gained self-defiance," an apt Malapropism of Susan's.

Later on a pretty love-story develops. Dorothy, the daughter of an eminent ophthalmic surgeon, falls in love with her father's plucky patient, and together they do great things. A man living next door to Keith returns from the war blinded, and it is with Keith's help that he wins his way back to the joys of the normal life.

Dorothy and her lover then look farther afield, and soon they have established a workroom for blinded soldiers in an electrical machinery manufacturing company's building, where they wind coils for armatures and carry through their job with success.

The book is very human, and therefore very helpful. There is no attempt to make light of the heavy handicap of blindness, no foolish declaration that both sides of the street are sunny and that there is no shadow anywhere. Instead, Susan puts the case in her sensible way: "It seems to me that the man what says, yes, he knows one side is shady and troublous, but that he thinks it'll be healthier an' happier for him an' everybody else round him if he walks on the sunny side, an' then *walks there*—it seems to me he's got the spots all knocked off that feller what says there *ain't* no shady side!"

S. B. P.

OOOO

AT the annual meeting of the Cornish Home Teaching Society for the Blind, at Truro, Mrs. Cuthbert Williams (the Secretary) reported that two additional teachers had been sent from London, and that the county was now divided into four areas. During the year Mr. Gatley had paid 586 visits to 194 cases, and Mr. Stone, for three months, had paid 229 visits to forty-nine people.

* "Keith's Dark Tower," by Eleanor H. Porter. London: Constable and Co. Ltd.

THE STORY OF AESCULAPIUS.



WHY was it that to Æsculapius, god of healing, the serpent was especially sacred? This question arises naturally enough when looking at the badge of the R.A.M.C.—the staff entwined by a serpent—which has its origin in the familiar depiction of the legendary healer. Perhaps it is because the serpent in shedding its skin and acquiring a new one becomes the symbol of renovation; perhaps it is because the ancient physicians used these reptiles in their prescriptions.

In the Homeric poems Asklepius (as he was called by the Greeks) is not a deity, but simply the "blameless physician." Tricca in Thessaly and Epidaurus in Argolis disputed the honour of his birthplace, but an oracle declared in favour of Epidaurus. The common story of later poets relates that he was the son of Apollo and Coronis, the daughter of Phlegyas, and that Apollo, learning that Coronis preferred a mortal to himself, sent his sister, Artemis, to kill Coronis. When the body of Coronis was to be burnt, either Apollo or Hermes saved the child Asklepius from the flames, and carried him to the centaur, Cheiron, who taught him the arts of healing and of hunting. His skill in curing diseases and restoring the dead to life aroused the anger of Zeus, who, afraid lest he might render all men immortal, slew him with a thunderbolt. Apollo, incensed at his son's death, killed the Cyclops who had made the thunderbolt.

The Romans possessed their own ancient goddess of healing, Meditrina, but in the year 293 B.C., when the land was devastated by a plague, the Sibylline Books advised that Asklepius should be fetched from Epidaurus. The messengers who were sent to Epidaurus brought back from the temple a sacred serpent, which had followed them of its own free will, and in it they recognized the genius of the god himself. This reptile chose to

reside on an island in the Tiber, and immediately after its arrival the plague ceased. A temple was thereupon erected on the island which became the "island of Æsculapius," and the wall around it was shaped like a ship in commemoration of his journey thither.

The essential part of the worship in the temple of Æsculapius consisted in sleeping in the temple itself, where an oracle through a dream revealed to the patient the method of cure. That such dream apparitions could easily be contrived by the priest is obvious, and there is no doubt that the remedies were such as the priests believed rightly or wrongly would be beneficial. It is interesting to note here that this "temple sleep" was also practised in Egypt, where we find the sun god Serapis, also worshipped as the "god of the Nile," imparting medical advice by this means, and causing the lame to walk and the blind to see (this, of course, long before the Christian era). Æsculapius is usually represented as a bearded man bearing the staff and snake and often also a dish which contained the healing potion. His daughter was Hygeia, the goddess of health. She is usually depicted as a young girl feeding a serpent from a dish. Her temple was joined to that of Æsculapius, and next to the pictures of both was often that of Telesphorus, the god of recovery—a boy muffled in a voluminous cloak. The Greek healers or doctors soon emigrated into Italy, and in 219 B.C. the first Greek surgeon appeared in Rome. His merciless cuttings and burnings aroused much opposition, and many Romans, amongst them Cato, preferred their old household remedies and receipt-books to the ministration of the doctors. Later on the Romans paid little heed to the art of healing, which they left to the Greeks, among whom were many charlatans. But the art of Æsculapius flourished during a long period of time. Among the animals sacrificed on his altars was the cock—symbolical, doubtless, of the dawn of a new life.

FICTION.

Beloved Enemy, 5 vols. *M. Albanesi*
 Knight of the Golden Sword, 4 vols. *M. Barrington*
 Man from the Clouds, 3 vols. *J. Storer Clouston*
 Mystery of Edwin Drood, 5 vols. *Charles Dickens*
 New Book of the Fairies, 2 vols. *B. Harraden*
 Burning Daylight, 5 vols. *Jack London*
 Sea-Wolf, 5 vols. *Jack London*
 Vanished Messenger, 4 vols. *E. Phillips Oppenheim*
 Audrey, or Children of Light, *Mrs. O. F. Walton*

My Experiences as a German Prisoner...*L. J. Austin*
 Meaning of Life : based upon Psychology and
 Idealism*F. C. Baker*
 Marne and After, 4 vols. ...*Major A. Corbett-Smith*
 English Gothic Architecture*P. H. Ditchfield*
 Swords and Ploughshares*John Drinkwater*
 Commentary on Holy Bible, vols. 1—16 (in contin-
 uation)*Ed. by J. R. Dummelow*
 Conquests of the Russian Church.....*Mrs. Edwards*
 Distant Lands, 9 vols.*H. J. Mackinder*
 Songs of Love and Life.....*Lt.-Col. D. Sampson*
 History of English Literature, vols. 1—10 (in con-
 tinuation).....*H. A. Taine*
 Forty Years of "Spy," 5 vols.*Leslie Ward*

First French Reader, with Vocabulary, 4 vols. *Henri Bué*
De Bello Gallico, Book 4 *Cæsar*
Climax Prote (First Greek Reader)... *E. C. Marchant*

Francis of Assisi, 3 vols.James Adderley
My Adventures as a Spy, 2 vols.Lt.-Gen. Sir R. Baden-Powell
Way of an Eagle, 7 vols.Ethel M. Dell
Romance of the Beaver, 2 vols.A. Radclyffe Dugmore
Prisoner of Zenda, 4 vols.A. Hope
Under the Red Robe, 4 vols.S. Weyman

VIOLIN AND PIANO—
Sonata, Op. 108, in D minor..... *J. Brahms*

The Bells of Ys	<i>J. W. Nicholl</i>
The Three Fishers	<i>H. G. Oke</i>
I saw that you were grown so high.....	<i>H. Purcell</i>
Ah ! How pleasant 'tis to love	<i>H. Purcell</i>
Cease, O my sad Soul.....	<i>H. Purcell</i>
I'll sail upon the Dog-star	<i>H. Purcell</i>
More Love or more Disdain I crave	<i>H. Purcell</i>
Sylvia, now your scorn give over	<i>H. Purcell</i>
Nymphs and Shepherds.....	<i>H. Purcell</i>
Hark ! hark ! the ecch'ing air	<i>H. Purcell</i>
Friend.....	<i>C. N. Davies</i>
Keep on Hopin'.....	<i>K. Heron-Maxwell</i>

The Missouri Waltz *F. K. Logan*
 Maxina *Boissonade & Hurndall*

Violets. No. 7 of an "Album of Flowers" *J. E. Campbell*
 La Bourbonnoise *F. Couperin*

See-Saw. No. 2 of "Four Little Pieces" . . . *H. Bidder*
Fugue in B flat. Preludes and Fugues. Book No. 2.
No. 21 *J. S. Bach*
Prelude in E minor *P. Corder*
Twelve Zephyrs from Melodyland . . . *C. W. Krogmann*

Study in B flat. Op. 67. No. 14 *Loeschhorn*

THE annual meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Brighton Asylum for the Blind, which took place on December 1st, was presided over by Sir Arthur Pearson, who made a happy and encouraging speech to the lads of the institution. In his opening remarks, he expressed the wish that the Committee would abolish the word "asylum" in connection with the institution. The term, in its original sense, he said, meant helpfulness, and in that use was all right, but to-day it had fallen into the use for symbolizing a place for care for the mentally defective. It was a general idea among people that persons who were blind were helpless, and as the word "asylum" tended to increase the impression of helplessness in regard to the blind, he was quite sure it should be abolished. Those who were blind found that endeavouring to impress people that they were not helpless was their main difficulty. What they had to do, therefore, was to be normal in all their actions; that was one of the great points they would have to study. Proceeding, he urged the boys not to let that awful word "affliction" weigh them down; at St. Dunstan's they only dealt with the word "handicap." That was what blindness really was—blind people were running the race with a handicap, and if they did not have anything to do with "patient resignation," but stood up with a fighting and kicking spirit, they would be all right. Finally, Sir Arthur exhorted the lads to carry that spirit away with them when they left the school, so that they might help other normal people who could not see so well as others.

After the speeches there was a presentation of prizes, among them being four sets of Braille books and two silver Braille watches, given by Sir Arthur Pearson for general efficiency. An excellent programme of music was supplied by the blind boys during the intervals of the business programme.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—NO. 38.

FEBRUARY, 1920.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.



EVEN the least observant amongst those who go up and down the streets of our great cities must be struck by the number of men one now sees bearing on their persons the scars of the Great War. Here, then, we have a constant reminder of our duty, especially those of us who were unable to bear the heat and burden of the day, as did those who will carry to their graves the honourable wounds that betray their patriotism.

It is perhaps worth while to look back through the pages of history and take note of some of the great ones of the earth who have risen above the crushing handicap of physical infirmities, and who are lasting examples of W. E. Henley's famous lines:—

"I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul."

Julius Cæsar—no need to enlarge on his achievements—was subject to epilepsy; while Homer and Milton, each supreme and unsurpassed as the greatest epic writers the world has ever seen, were both blind; while during the last seven or eight years of his life George Frederick Handel was totally blind. Think of Beethoven, stricken with deafness, in spite of that great handicap producing symphonies unheard to their composer, yet golden voices now that all may hear. Alexander Pope, one of the most brilliant of wits, was a little undersized, life-long invalid. William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham, despite a complaint that racked him half his

life was one of England's greatest counselors; while you have only to read your Boswell to learn how Samuel Johnson struggled through penury and illness to a dazzling success. Then there was William Collins, poet, who succumbed eventually to mental darkness that he fought for years. And indeed the list might be prolonged. Chatterton, Cowper, Kirke White, Keats, Francis Thomson, Robert Louis Stevenson—here are golden names, yet every one of them had to fight a great fight against the demons of ill-health.

"Nothing is a misery save your weakness, apprehend it so"—the famous aphorism of Shakespeare—has been and is being proved over and over again by the great hearts of humanity. There is, too, a curious reflection in the thought that all physically sound men and women draw, consciously or unconsciously, moral strength and courage from the examples of those sometimes termed "crocks" by unthinking people. And what those of us who are working shoulder to shoulder for one great section of the physically handicapped—the blind—must assuredly continue to combat, is the amazing lack of intelligence displayed by well-meaning people towards those who have lost their physical sight. Here, for instance, is a true story which seems almost incredible, but which is, nevertheless, a striking example of by no means intentional cruelty. Some time ago an exceedingly gifted blind man, who holds a very responsible position and has quite a number of letters to his name, was standing, according to his wont, at the place where he was in the habit of stopping each day for his omnibus. As he stood there somebody touched him on the shoulder, and

he heard a voice say to him (obviously the voice of a rough, uneducated man), "Can I help you, guv'ner?" "No, thank you," said the blind savant, courteously, "I'm all right. I'm used to waiting here for my 'bus." "Oh, come along," answered the other, almost roughly, yet with obvious kindness of intention, "let me help you; *when a man's lost his sight he's no good for anything.*" The italics are ours.

* * *

Journalism has sustained a very great loss in the death of Mr. Twells Brex, which occurred at Hampstead on January 7th. This "charming writer and very brave spirit" was, since 1912, a regular contributor to the *Daily Mail*, and readers of *The Beacon* may remember in particular an article from his pen on the subject of St. Dunstan's Hostel. Much impressed by the spirit of cheerfulness which pervades "the happiest house in London," Mr. Brex wrote:—

"War has no personal tragedy that is greater than these tragedies here. But man, and his unconquerable soul, is still triumphant over fate. Half the tragedy is forgotten when the victims of it mix together as they do here and feel their community. 'The sporting spirit comes up top,' said Sir Arthur Pearson, 'and they all help each other and chaff each other into cheeriness and resolution.' There is another undying consolation of man which comes to the blind hero. As I walked away from St. Dunstan's a girl brought her blinded lover back from a walk. They were lost to the world, and the face of the blind man was radiant with his light within."

A few days before his death—at a time when he was suffering very great pain—there appeared in the *Daily Mail* a very beautiful little essay from the pen of one who till the last was in very truth the "captain of his soul."

He calls his essay "Before Sunset," and he writes:—

"Life is a great possession. The more years we have on this earth, the more years we want. The most obvious confutation of melancholy people who declare that 'life is not worth living,' who ludicrously describe active, sanguine, varied, multi-coloured human existence as a 'vale of tears,' is the truth that man's greatest passion is the desire to live—to live anywhere, anyhow, at any

price, if only to live; as a pauper; to live blind, maimed, halt; to live bruised in body and soul—just to *live*. What malady-stricken king would not forfeit his throne for exchange into the hale body of a roadside vagrant? What sick millionaire would not pay his last shilling for the health and the rags of a goatherd? Because, in simple truth, it is *kingly* and *rich* just to *live*.

"That is why many people thrust aside any thought of death, and why—unlike Socrates—they shun any discussion of death. Before the war it was 'morbid' to talk of death. We shunned death so much that we invested it with unreal dread (preposterously calling it 'The King of Terrors'), and surrounded it with gloomy pomps. We brought up our children to think of death as some unnatural stroke of nature instead of teaching them that death is as natural as birth.

"The Great War has altered us. We who have seen a million of our strong men in the morning dew of their springtime pass gaily out of life, cannot decently or with any sense of perspective beat our breasts on the comfortable, love-attended, gently nursed deaths of our middle-aged friends or our middle-aged selves. We have seen death overwhelm the young, joyous, and hale; we cannot grieve so much when death comes as a kindly release of the pains and weakness of the middle-aged and elderly.

"Socrates said:—'Death must be one of two things: either it is to have no consciousness at all of anything whatever; or else, as some say, it is a kind of change and migration of the soul from this world to another.'

"And to Socrates' philosophy of death may be added the certainty that God is more magnanimous than man.

"If a human being could say that 'to understand everything is to forgive everything,' we may be sure that our weaknesses and offences will be forgiven beyond.

"Then—whatever happens to us, nothingness or another life—what have we to fear in death? Why should we not meet it as gaily and composedly as our pains permit? It is the sunset gate for escape from them."

OOOO

THE Barclay Workshops for Blind Women, 21, Crawford Street, are holding a sale of remnants of dress materials in the first week of February. Some really good bargains can be picked up.

CHILDHOOD'S ROYAL ROAD TO LEARNING.

THE MONTESSORI METHODS OF EDUCATION.



IT is the day of auto-education. The individual is to give of his best if he is to find a place in the world, and even in the nursery it is not too soon to learn the lesson. Therefore all who are interested in the education of children—whether the normal child, or the child who faces a handicap—are glad to hear of Dr. Maria Montessori's recent sojourn

in London, where she has conducted the long-promised training course and given supplementary lectures. The author of the Montessori System had planned to hold an international training course in London four years ago, but the war intervened and postponed her plans. Meantime America and Spain have been learning her educational method, which may be described, in few words, as teaching the child to teach itself.

There are four thousand Montessori Schools in America, and indeed the author's book, "The Montessori Methods," has been translated into English, French, German, Spanish, Catalan, Roumanian, Dutch, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Danish, Japanese, and Czech. Dr. Montessori says, also, that her book is next to be translated into Finnish, Swedish, Serbian, and Hindu, and tells that one of the Indian Rajahs has a Montessori teacher for the Princes.

The system has a world-wide recognition, and one is not surprised to learn that for the four months' training course for teachers in London there were over 2,000 applications for the 250 places provided. It is proposed to establish a permanent Training Institute, and it is gratifying to know that, while there is a very keen international competition, Dr. Montessori herself prefers that the Headquarters of the Montessorians should be in England. "The Younger Generation is Knocking at the Door," and the British people are backing the Montessorian enterprise, subscribing funds for the erection of

an educative centre which shall stand in memory of all who have made the supreme sacrifice in the war.

The Montessori method substitutes "I will" for "Thou shalt not." The teacher keeps in the background; the little pupils use their own minds untrammelled, and the teacher is there to watch the natural growth of each individual child, and to guide it whenever necessary, chiefly by answering the child's own questions. "My children ignore my presence in the room," says one Montessori teacher, "and only look up to see where I am when they want to make me admire something they have achieved."

There are very few rules in a Montessori school. Indeed, there might be said to be only one, and that the great rule of kindness. For the Montessori school, far from implying a state of anarchy, implies rather a state of freedom which recognises always its duty towards its neighbour, for the absence of selfishness is part of the principle of its self-education. The child who learns that—

"Politeness is to do and say

The kindest thing in the kindest way"

is not likely to jib at every little act of duty. For every child is ready to be kind, though if a line of *duty* were pointed out there would seldom be an eager response. The Montessori child says cheerfully, "Of course I will be kind," so there is no need for the unpleasant sounding command, "Thou shalt not be unkind."

The scholars of the Montessori schools become sense specialists. The method is largely based on the use of specially designed "didactic material," as it is called, which trains the child through its senses, touch, hearing, sight, the power of appreciating form, colour, dimension and weight. Wooden bricks, buttoning, tying, hooking, and lacing frames; counting sticks, and script letters cut out in sandpaper and fastened on to a smoother surface of wood or cardboard; separate little tables and chairs, light enough

to be moved about by the children themselves; jugs and basins, dusters and brooms, and other simple household effects, go to make up this valuable scheme of instruction. The child instinctively chooses the easier tasks first before going on to those a little more difficult, and the material supplied at the Montessori schools is so graded that it meets the natural wants and needs of the child progressively. The upward progression of intellect and senses gives a normal training with eminently satisfactory results.

The Montessori toddler learns buttoning, lacing-up, and tying by dressing and undressing dolls, a very pleasant kind of lesson. And, boys and girls alike, the Montessori scholars very early know how to dress themselves, for really dressing is quite an exciting game of adventure if you go about it the Montessori way.

These happy children do not count their teachers amongst those grown-ups who—

"Sit at home, and talk and sing,
And do not play at anything."

Most of us believe that in teaching the child who faces a handicap, such as blindness or deafness, *play* must be an important element, but the Montessori system maintains that *all* children learn by play, and that setting the child free to learn along these pleasant lines is a short cut to the normal life of full vigour and happy emancipation. S. B. P.

BABIES HELP THE BABIES.

AN invading army of "infantry" descended upon the Mansion House on January 14th. It consisted of some thousand children of all ages, who attended a party in aid of the Blind Babies' Home (Sunshine House) at Chorley Wood, founded by the National Institute for the Blind.

Lady Cooper made an ideal hostess. Who else would have thought of inviting the harlequinade straight from Drury Lane?

Princess Arthur of Connaught presided over the tea party, and the very smallest baby gave her a large bouquet of white chrysanthemums and red carnations (the City colours).

An orchestra, composed of forty small performers, all under eleven years of age and in the most delightful white frilly frocks, played favourite airs, and Miss Margaret Cooper sang some of her inimitable songs.—

Daily Mirror.

A WAR LOAN ADVENTURE.

A REMARKABLE story of the adventures of a £25 War Loan Certificate is related by Mr. C. G. Williams, who is now an inmate of St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers. On the opening day of the Somme offensive in 1916, the London Division were near Gommecourt, and the 1st Battalion Queen Victoria Rifles, in which Williams was a rifleman, took part in the attack. He went over the top, and with others penetrated into the second line of German trenches, where he was badly wounded in the eyes by a sharpshooter. For six weeks he lay in an almost unconscious condition, and when he came to his senses he found himself in a German hospital, totally blind. He had lost the whole of his belongings in a counter-attack, including a voucher certificate for £25 War Loan, which he had bought while at the front. He reached home three months later, to find that he had been reported killed, and was afterwards furnished with a duplicate of the certificate by the Post Office. In due course he entered St. Dunstan's, and a few days ago the secretary of the After-Care Fund received as a contribution the original certificate, unaccompanied by any letter. Assuming that it came from the person whose name it bore, he wrote a letter of thanks, and was then surprised to learn that Mr. Williams had never sent it, and that he was himself a blind man at St. Dunstan's. So Mr. Williams was confronted with the certificate he had lost in a second-line German trench three and a half years before. It is an extraordinary thing that a War Loan certificate should under such circumstances have been sent to a charity fund, and more extraordinary still that it should be sent to an institution of which the owner was an inmate.

oooo

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

A BLIND BOTANIST.



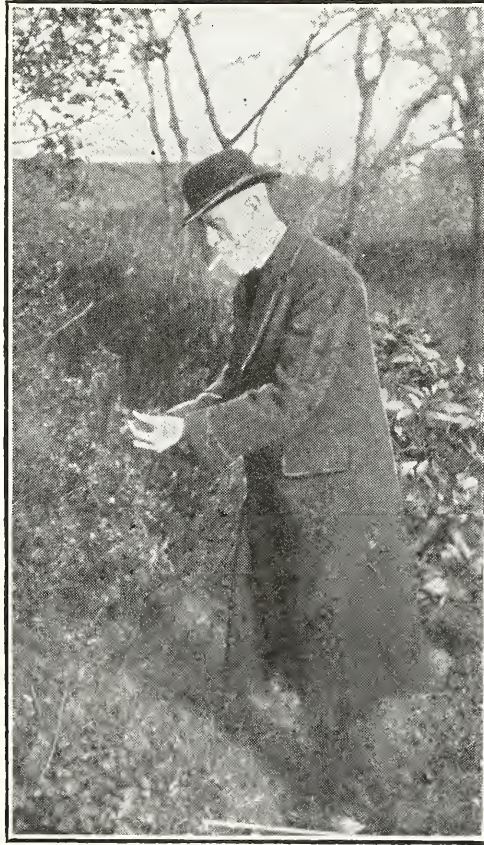
IT is a well-known fact that with the blind the senses of hearing and touch become far more highly developed than with those who can see. Few people, however, probably realise to what extent these two senses may come to take the place of actual vision and what wonderful work can therefore be accomplished by the sightless. As an example of this may be cited the work of Mr. John Grimshaw Wilkinson, the blind botanist, who has become a well-known authority on his subject. Mr. Wilkinson, who is now 64 years of age, became blind at the age of 22. Before this he was a grocer, though his inclination was always towards science and art. Shortly after becoming blind he accompanied a friend into the country. He had been in the same place three years previously, and was able to describe it in detail. By simply touching a tree he could name it. From that time he did all in his power to develop this gift, and at the present time he is able to name 800 British flowering plants, foreign trees and foreign weeds, simply by the sense of touch.

Mr. Wilkinson told a *Times* correspondent the other day that his first observations in sound were with the variations caused by ground covered with growing crops. Later he was attracted by the manner in which trees of every description gathered water

during the rain and cast it from them either inwards towards the stem or outwards. "If I feel a poppy leaf," he said, "on a hot July morning, it feels cold, but if I feel a leaf of London Pride at the same time it is quite warm, although the plants may be within a yard of each other. When I touch anything I notice whether it is warm or cold, and then ask myself, Why?"

During heavy showers he discovered that trees made different noises, and he could tell them by the sound of the falling rain. The most silent tree, he believed, was the *Pinus sylvestris*. These trees only made an occasional hiss even in very severe thunder storms. The oak was the noisiest of trees in a storm, because it reflected the echoes by its leaves and also by its stem, and raindrops had a more drum-like effect upon it than upon any other tree. It was in a wood composed of oak trees that one could hear birds at their best. Among pine trees, owing to the softness of the wood, birds were not heard to the same advantage, the wood absorbing the sound, whereas the oak gave it

fuller play because of its hardness. The poplar tree, being sensitive to electricity, was almost silent in a thunderstorm, and yet after the storm was over it was more noisy, because the twigs were more elastic. "I think," said Mr. Wilkinson, "that the sound of falling water is very fascinating to the ear. I have particularly marked the



MR. JOHN WILKINSON EXAMINING A PLANT
(Copyright Topical Press Agency)

contrast between sound in a place where rocks are bare and in other places where they are covered with moss. This gives a kind of muffled sound to the musical splash of the water, and also to the songs of birds."

Turning again to the question of touch, Mr. Wilkinson said that it was a delight to shake hands with some people. "I know one of the finest surgeons in the City whose hand-shake is nervous, but who can handle the lancet with great skill," he said. "Some people judge too much by appearances. If I could go into Armley Gaol and shake hands with the prisoners, I could at once tell which were habitual criminals and which were not. People who are not quite what they should be are never well balanced in action. They have some small trait in their hands or feet which gives them away."

In July, 1915, the degree of M.Sc. was conferred on Mr. Wilkinson by Leeds University.

"THE BLIND PLOUGHMAN."

SET my hands upon the plough,
My feet upon the sod;
Turn my face towards the east,
And praise be to God!

Ev'ry year the rains do fall,
The seeds they stir and spring;
Every year the spreading trees
Shelter birds that sing.

From the shelter of your heart,
Brother, drive out sin;
Let the little birds of faith
Come and nest therein.

God has made His sun to shine
On both you and me—
God, who took away my eyes
That my soul might see!

OOOO

MR. HARALD THILANDER, editor of "La Esperanta Ligilo," has written from Stockholm to express his appreciation of Sir Arthur Pearson's book, "Victory Over Blindness." "Never," he writes, "have I read a book on blindness and the blind of such value, both on account of the many different subjects treated by an expert and on account of the abundance of good advice and suggestions. It should be translated into French and German, and, for the small nations, into Esperanto. Doubtless it will soon be translated into the two former languages."

BRITISH EMPIRE BALL.

THE Royal Albert Hall was the scene of a picturesque British Empire ball in aid of St. Dunstan's After-Care Fund, one of the principal features being a re-union of officers of all British forces. The regimental colours with which the boxes on the grand tier were draped and adorned produced a splendid effect. Military pomp was paramount throughout the great hall. About midnight eight State trumpeters, in their brilliant full-dress uniforms, blew a thrilling fanfare on their silver trumpets, and were followed by the massed fife and drum bands of four battalions of Guards. Another thrill was caused by the entrance of the pipers of the Scots Guards playing a march, succeeded by a sword dance and reels. The Irish Guards came next and danced the Irish jig. Metropolitan Police also sent a detachment, who gave a display. At its conclusion there was another fanfare, which ushered in the pipers, who skirled for all they were worth, marching at the head of a long procession of dancers in costume who, in friendly competition for valuable prizes, filed past a little committee of judges. The first award was handed by Sir Arthur Pearson to Mrs. Proctor, who figured as Cleopatra, and Miss Fitzgerald, whose novel costume represented a wedding cake, received the second prize. The two prizes for gentlemen went to officers who had revived the picturesque old uniforms of their regiments. Uniform, hunt coats, fancy dress, evening dress were all worn, and the result was a very pleasing variety.

It is understood that the British Empire ball will become an annual re-union of officers.

OOOO

WE again call our readers' attention to the "Miniature Booklets," the smallest size Braille books now produced. The size of the volume is 4 ins. by $7\frac{1}{4}$ ins., while that of the Pocket Size is 11 ins. by $7\frac{1}{4}$ ins. The Miniature Booklets are sold at the uniform price of 3d. They are printed in the so-called Universal Type, which is now being employed for a great many Braille magazines, and is a smaller type than that used hitherto. Among recent publications in this form are various fairy stories in Grade I., as well as essays, such as "Lessons from Jutland."

HOW THE BLIND TRAVEL.

By F. R. Marriott.



GENERALLY it is difficult to lay down rules whereby the blind are able to travel about unaided. So very much is individual, and an amount of perception does not necessarily denote also a power of perception. Compass points of towns or cities are a great help ; for myself, I have a kind of mental drawing board upon which I figuratively sketch places or positions with compass points for guidance.

My home is twelve miles from London, and I can start out from it and travel all London without being in the least baffled as long as the mental sketch remains with me, but should it once slip my memory it is difficult again to pick up a landmark.

I always make my chief landmarks places of great importance, such as the Bank of England, or the National Gallery—objects which shall cover a large field ; and yet a strange fact is, that if I am standing outside my own gate talking to friends, and perhaps unconsciously turn around several times, I lose myself for a while, and my gate has to be found for me again.

I always carry with me a light cane, not too rigid and not too elastic, which is easy of manipulation and seems to convey impressions more easily than any other kind of walking stick would do. For instance, I can discriminate with its help between wood, brick, stone, or the leg of a passer-by ; the more lightly the object is touched the better is the impression gained.

Rubber upon the soles of one's boots I find a deterrent, as it diminishes resonance, and resonance is a great help to the blind. The nearer one walks to or along a building or wall, the less the resonance ; the best point of vantage is about four to six feet away from a building line. Resonance is, of course, broken when a vehicle is standing at the kerb, which is why one cannot always tell when there are obstacles in the way.

If the ground is not baked hard by sun and drought, one can always tell the proximity of trees. Naturally, one's own neighbourhood is always easy to traverse, as it is known more in detail. For instance, each street or part of a street gets to have its own echo or sound, and any slight alteration in a building will affect this in a marked manner. Often my friends are surprised when I tell them without any prompting that there has been an alteration made in such and such a street ; I can also tell when I am approaching the corner of a street or a turning by the difference of the feel of the wind upon my skin, or the warmth of the sun's rays if the sun is shining.

Railway travelling does not encroach very much upon the mental preserves, and one does not need to be so much upon the *qui vive* when in the train. The major levers are retentiveness and hearing, and one has to bear well in mind numbers of points that are passed during the journey, the crossing of bridges, either over or under, tunnels, gradients, either up or down, etc. One must also listen for the character of stations, whether the platforms are of wood or stone, or granite chippings ; this can always be learned by the sound of other passengers walking. Sometimes one recognises a station by a distinctive curve, sometimes by an open or confined sensation. Sand platforms are the hardest to negotiate. When travelling with workmen I can frequently discover the vocation of those sitting near to me, perhaps by the smell of lime, fish or wood which attaches to them ; a great deal of interest may be found in this manner, also in the judging of characters from voices, a laugh, breathing, or peculiarity in a step. These facts all help to convey to the blind whether a person is quick, lethargic, impulsive, or of a nervous temperament. Another point of interest is that when travelling by omnibus one gets to know by surrounding odours when one is passing from a good class of neighbourhood to squalid surroundings. If it is fine I make a point of

travelling outside the omnibus, and so, by the smell of jam, soap, cooking, or other odours, I get a general impression of my surroundings. If I lose a clue, sometimes it can again be picked up by a railway whistle or the voice of a newspaper man, who is always in the same spot, or the cry of hawkers in a market place.

When one wishes to find a house in an unfamiliar street the usual way is to ask a passer by, but afterwards, to avoid having to do this a second time, the smallest landmark is a great help, such as a manhole, ivy growing on a wall, or some other peculiarity in gate, fence or structure of any kind.

There is frequently another faculty that operates, and, so far, I have not been able to decide if it is conscious or sub-conscious, that is, when one is conscious of a stoppage. When walking along in the ordinary way one involuntarily stops without knowing why, and invariably in such a case some awkward obstacle proves to be in the way. It does not matter whether the obstacle be animate or inanimate, the result is all the same, and for purpose of description, and for want of a better name, I will call it a sense of presence.

Home life, hospital work and character study all call into action the same senses, but from a different standpoint, and it would be a digression from the main trend of blind locomotion to dive into these now.

It comes to this, that the great art of it all seems to lie in the differentiation and analysis of the senses into conveyances which are split up into two distinct classes, natural and artificial. For instance, the neigh of a horse, a cough, smoke, fire, tar, etc., are in contra-distinction to the squeaking of machinery, sweeping, hammering, digging, perfumery, etc., and I often think that the blind have a better standpoint for judgment of character, gesture and countenance, which are all a universal language. To one with sight these things can all be so easily counterfeited, but to the blind, who trust their instinct for observation, one gets behind dissimulation in this respect.

There is a curious fact which always puzzles me, and it is this : that without knowledge of the engine head of a train one cannot tell by the motion of travelling whether one is going forward or backward, and the truth is only grasped when the brakes are applied, or when a pull comes from increased impetus.

Town travelling is quite different from country travelling, but in all travelling three

forces are of great importance : necessity, vitality and responsibility ; and it is a fact that persons who are financially comfortable do not manage to get about so well and independently. Strong motor nerves are of great importance, and the three keenest organs of perception are the ears, the skin, and the feet. The olfactory sense is of very great assistance, and if one reaches the corner of a fresh street it immediately comes into play. If one notices the smell of paint, one at once looks out for ladders and scaffolding, etc. ; if the musty smell of matting and straw, such as are used by pantotechnicon people, one has to be wary of furniture ; beer cellars also have a very pungent smell when the cellar-flap is open ; gas suggests excavations, and I have often detected the character or social standing of persons some thirty yards ahead of me by the quality of tobacco they are smoking. For instance, one would not expect to find a well-to-do man smoking shag, or a labouring man smoking Turkish cigarettes. This same principle applies also to ladies with regard to perfume.

Most shops are usually found by the blind through the nose, as they each have their own distinctive scent. I do my own gardening, and can easily detect growths such as parsnips, celery, onions, etc.

When one has encountered a very strong scent, such as tar, smoke or gas, it spoils one's acumen for other scents for some considerable period. Another very important thing is that the hearing must be trained to catch sounds in one's immediate vicinity and right ahead at the same moment, a faculty which is very restricted in heavy traffic or a crowd. Wind, snow, rain and other elements are also a tremendous distraction.

I hope that these few points may be of interest and help to my readers.

OOOO

THE National Institute for the Blind, being always anxious to do all in its power to remember that it does not exist as a profit-making institute, save where the word "profit" can be used in the best sense, has reverted to its old prices for Braille frames. The prices for these frames are now 6s. for the large frame complete, and 4s. 9d. for the smaller size, as compared with 15s. and 13s. 9d. as charged during the war. When it is realised that the last mentioned prices are the actual cost of the frames to the Institute, further comment on the concession is surely superfluous.

A MESSAGE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND.

THE National Institute for the Blind has recently launched an enterprise which is certain to prove a very great boon to all blind persons practising massage as a profession.

Massage for the blind has, if the slang phrase will be permitted, "come to stay," and hitherto it has not been easy for blind students thoroughly to keep in touch with all modern methods of training. It is to fill this want that the Massage Library has been started. The library is to be found on the ground floor of No. 37, Bolsover Street, adjoining the National Institute for the Blind in Great Portland Street.

Dr. Lloyd Johnstone, who is himself blind and who was trained in massage at the National Institute, has been appointed librarian. For many years he, in conjunction with Mrs. Chaplin Hall, Secretary of the Massage Department of the Institute, has been editing books for publication in

Braille, amongst these being Gray's Anatomy, Human Physiology (advanced) and a Dictionary of Medical Terms. The library will of course be kept fully equipped with books of reference, and from the middle of January, 1920, all past and present massage students at St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind will be able to make use of the Library for reference and lending purposes.

We welcome the thought that, thanks to this new venture, the blind masseur or masseuse will be given the same facilities for

keeping up to date in their profession as their sighted colleagues. It is sincerely hoped that full use will be taken of the advantages offered by the library.

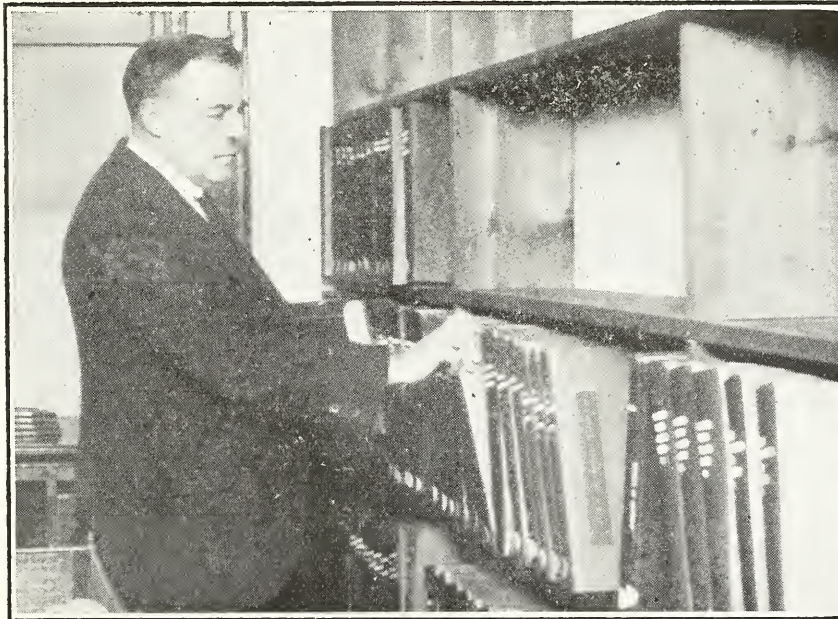
METHYL ALCOHOL AND BLINDNESS.

THE tragedy reported from New York, in which a hundred or more persons lost their lives and many others their sight from drinking wood spirit, apparently in mistake for whisky, calls public attention to the exceedingly poisonous character of methyl alcohol. So long as wood spirit was a dark, evil-smelling liquid few were tempted to take it as a beverage, but as now purified

it is scarcely distinguishable to the eye or to the nose from methyl alcohol, and probably provides an agreeable diversion to the jaded palate. The danger has been foreseen for sometime, and the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness (130, East Twenty-second Street, New York) issued broadcast the following warning:

"One teaspoonful of wood alcohol taken internally is sufficient to cause total blindness—a larger quantity often causes death. If you value your eyesight or your life, never use wood alcohol, denatured alcohol or medicated alcohol for drinking purposes. Pass this knowledge on if you would assist in reducing the fatalities which are occurring from this cause."

The tragedy will not be all loss if it serves as an effectual reminder that any substitute for alcohol can only be taken at deadly personal risk.—*Lancet*.



DR. LLOYD JOHNSTONE, LIBRARIAN TO THE BRAILLE MEDICO-SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

(Photo by the Alfieri Picture Service.)

THE PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND.



THE eighty-sixth annual report of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, at Overbrook, Philadelphia, gives a proud record of work done by teachers and pupils alike. Uptill the end of the war, the work of the school was seriously interfered with by the difficulty experienced in obtaining proper service in nearly all the departments. Also, the Principal of the Institution (Mr. Olin H. Burritt) was called upon by the Government to aid it in devising ways and means of dealing with the expected condition of many blinded soldiers. He was therefore obliged to be much in Washington and Baltimore, and, at the request of Lieutenant-Colonel Bordley, drew the preliminary plans for the four new buildings erected on the Garrett Estate, U.S. General Hospital No. 7—the American St. Dunstan's. In spite of all these additional activities, however, Mr. Burritt managed to keep in close touch with the work of the Overbrook Institution.

The Armistice, bringing hostilities to a close at an earlier date than had been thought possible, fortunately reduced the number of blinded soldiers within small limits, so that it came to be believed, says Mr. Burritt, that instead of establishing a separate Training Hostel, better results could be obtained by assigning a certain number of the blinded soldiers to each of the leading Schools for the Blind.

If the British matron is perturbed at the difficulties presented here by the servant problem, she would consider the position in America little less than tragic. But the Overbrook School is not easily dismayed. With the number of domestics reduced to less than half, the House Mothers, Matrons, with their pupils, set to and brushed and dusted, made beds and washed dishes in a whole-hearted, cheery fashion that all but turned work into play! To the uninitiated, blindness would certainly seem a bar to

housework, but the blind girl scholars at Overbrook make a great success of their studies in domestic science, and when it came to wartime emergency service, the blind boys, even though domestic science forms no part of their school curriculum, were not far behind their girl comrades.

The Overbrook Hostel is a school with very sensible, elastic, and human regulations. The Management does not fix age limits below or above which it will not receive pupils. But it generally prefers not to admit an applicant too young to dress or care for himself, or too old to be amenable to the discipline of schools adapted to youth. The average age of the pupils works out at fourteen, and when it is remembered that these schoolboys and girls, with wise kindness, are kept busy from morning till night with assigned school duties and household tasks, and have almost no leisure to earn money, not forgetting, too, that they are all under the heavy handicap of blindness, it is surely a great thing to read that from the little tots in the kindergarten to the senior boys and girls, individual pupils and student organisations have purchased Thrift and War Savings Stamps and Liberty Bonds and made generous contributions to the War Chest.

Physical and manual training take their places in the school time-table, and the pupils at Overbrook receive an education that fits them to be self-supporting citizens.

Sir Arthur Pearson's visit to the Overbrook School is recorded in the report as a Red Letter Day. "The visit to this country of Sir Arthur Pearson, who lost his sight a few years ago, and who has devoted himself since the war to stimulating and encouraging those blinded in battle, and who has conducted the work at St. Dunstan's, in London, in a wonderful way, was an event in the school's history," we read. "Sir Arthur has grasped the problem that must be very thoroughly dealt with by those becoming blind. He does not express sympathy in

their misfortune, but stimulates the blind by his own example in recognising them as practically normal but compelled to meet the difficulty of a handicap in life. He gave an address at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, after having visited the school at Overbrook, and publicly declared this institution to be distinctly the best of any in existence. This endorsement by one so well qualified to express an opinion is a cause of great satisfaction." S. B. P.

GLASGOW BLIND ASYLUM.

DISORDERLY scenes took place in the Christian Institute, Glasgow, on the occasion of the annual general meeting of the qualified subscribers to the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind. The Chairman, Major William Reid, J.P., announced that the business of the meeting was limited to electing office-bearers and managers for the ensuing year, as, owing to the new Board of Health regulations, the accounts for such institutions were now required to be made up to the 31st March of each year. He explained that the managers had not thought it advisable in the meantime to issue an interim report for presentation at that meeting. Reference had been made at various times to certain charges reflecting on the superintendent and the managers of the Asylum.

These charges were at present the subject of investigation by a Commissioner appointed by the Ministry of Labour. This announcement created a stir in the body of

the hall and the gallery, and the managers were accused of withholding the annual report and financial statement. The protests were led by local Labour leaders, who maintained that at a properly constituted meeting of subscribers a report should be forthcoming as to how the institution had been managed during the past year.

The Chairman pointed out that the meeting was held that day on the advice of the Board's solicitors, and that the annual report and statement of accounts would be duly presented on the termination of the new financial year.

An uproar ensued in the hall, and, owing to the temper of the majority of the audience, Major Reid had no alternative but to declare the meeting adjourned.

Those who remained at the meeting, including a few of the managers, then elected

Mr. William Cross, Chairman, and the business of electing a new Board of Management was quietly proceeded with.

Mr. Cross said he was keenly disappointed at the turn events had taken. He did not agree with the attitude taken up by his fellow-directors who had left the meeting, and he was of opinion that the meeting,

as constituted, could transact the business for which it was called.

Mr. William Shaw protested against the way the institution was managed, and considered that the professional and business element had too much say in the work.

A vote of censure having been passed on those managers who had retired from the meeting, a Board of Management of workers' representatives was elected for the ensuing year.



THE REV. H. GIBB, BLINDED WHILE SERVING AS A LIEUTENANT IN THE 4TH DRAGOON GUARDS, CONDUCTS A SERVICE FOR HIS FALLEN COMRADES AT THE CENOTAPH. NEXT HIM ARE LIEUT.-COLONEL HUNTER AND LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR E. C. BETHUNE.

EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND, PALAMCOTTAH.



Far away from any large town where Europeans congregate, on the plains of Southern India, at Palamcottah, are situated the largest educational and industrial schools for the blind in India. There is a deep-rooted idea amongst the natives that it is impossible to teach the blind anything—they are blind, and nothing can be done for them. These schools are a vivid testimony to the fallacy of this idea.

The supplementary report recently issued by Mr. W. G. Speight, the Principal, is full of interest and encouragement. Although nominally under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society, these schools receive no grant from the society, but are maintained entirely by Government grants and voluntary subscriptions. They are situated on high open ground, a mile from the town of Palamcottah, but despite their healthy position, Mr. Speight, who took over the administration in June, 1919, reports several cases of dysentery, and emphasises the need for improved hygiene and sanitation, and also for a hospital for boys; a girls' hospital already exists and has proved a great boon.

The educational school is run more or less on the same lines as an ordinary English elementary school, all reading and writing being done in Tamil Braille. The tiny children are taught by the kindergarten system. Nature study, gardening and music are included in the curriculum, and games calling for freedom of action are encouraged. The children attend daily services in the chapel and receive religious instruction. Although Christianity is in no way forced upon the children, many of them have been baptised and confirmed during the past year. Twenty boys entered for the Tinnevely Children's Mission Competitive Examination in Religious Knowledge; all were successful, and no fewer than fifteen received prizes.

This result surely reflects great credit on both teachers and pupils.

In the industrial school the boys learn cotton-weaving, mat-weaving and chair and cot-caning, while the girls are taught cotton-weaving, light basket-making and knitting. In spite of the high price and difficulty of obtaining supplies the cotton-weaving has proved very successful and it is hoped still further to increase the output of the looms. Unfortunately, the profit on the type of basket made by the girls is too small to justify its being taught as a separate trade, and it is estimated that only three per cent. of the girls will ever be quite self-supporting.

The danger of the school becoming a permanent home for the blind has to be faced. The workers cannot be sent to their own homes; it would be impossible to supply each man with a loom, and the caste problem would in any case prevent him from making a living. If the trained weavers are kept at the looms in the school, industrial training will automatically cease, for no new boys can be taught. The only solution of this problem seems to be the establishment of workshops both for men and women, and Mr. Speight appeals to the Government to take immediate steps in this matter.

There is another urgent problem, that of the Indian blind babies, whose fate, if they are left with their relations, is pitiful. If they do not succumb to neglect and ill-treatment in their babyhood they are used for begging purposes or exploited in other ways. To save them from this fate it is hoped to raise a fund for the South Indian blind babies and to build a nursery home in the compound of the school.

OOOO

AT a servants' fancy dress ball at the Artists' Rifles' Drill Hall, in December, Sergt. H. Spencer, of St. Dunstan's, who lost his sight and an arm in the war, very fittingly impersonated Lord Nelson, and was a great success.

SUNSHINE IN THE DARK.



WOMAN'S heart, and every man's, too, must ache for the babies in the dark. We think of the toys and picture books that litter the floors and tables in nurseries we know, and then a lump comes in the throat when we remember that there are hundreds of babies whose eyes are closed in infancy, whose play is not the easy, natural play of those bright-eyed tinies in the nurseries at home. The blind baby must be *taught* to play! And in the Sunshine Homes they learn this happy game, the first lesson of all, the first step on the way into that cheerful, joyous, contented life that normal children live.

In the big Continent across the water there are a number of Day Nurseries and Special Homes for Blind Babies. Important work of a temporary character is also done by Eye and Ear Infirmarys in some of the larger American cities, while in a few instances blind children, below the school-going age are received into Orphanages and other Child-Caring Institutions.

But there is a strong feeling that, particularly from poor homes where it is clearly impossible for the harassed and poverty-driven mother to give proper attention to the handicapped little one, blind infants should be taken to special homes where they can be tenderly cared for in wise ways, so that they are not denied their chance in life.

There can be but one objection raised to this proposition, and that is the conviction strongly held by some that it is not a wise policy to separate children from their own homes. This objection can surely be fully met, however, when it is pointed out that if there be justification for special homes for any children there is certainly a doubled justification in the case of young children who are blind; for with these babies very particular care is needed, often of a medical character, and which it would be difficult

indeed to give in the individual home, and certainly a sheer impossibility where the baby's parents are poor and ignorant.

It is interesting to read a list of America's Homes for Blind Babies, which we find enumerated in one chapter of Dr. Harry Best's book telling the conditions of the Blind and what is being done for them in the United States. "The first home for blind children to be established was at Hartford, Connecticut, in 1893," we read, "as a department of the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, later being removed to Farmington. It was followed by the Boston Nursery for Blind Babies in 1901 (now at Roxbury); the Dyker Heights Home and Kindergarten for Blind Children in Brooklyn, New York, in 1904; the Brooklyn Home for Blind, Crippled and Defective Children in 1907; the Catholic Institute for the Blind in New York City (Bronx) in 1909; the Arthur Home and Kindergarten for the Blind at Summit, New Jersey, in 1910; and the Monroe Home and Hospital for Blind Babies at Monroe, Michigan, in 1913. There are thus seven special Homes for Blind Children in the United States, all but one being in the East.

These Homes are to some extent supported by private voluntary contributions, but though nominally private institutions, they are aided in differing measure by public subsidies. The State was quickly advised of the existence of the Homes for Blind Babies, once they were established, and now aid is granted, such action being considered entirely appropriate because of the educational character of the work undertaken.

In England we have the Chorley Wood Sunshine Home under the direction of the National Institute for the Blind. This Home, with its wealth of sunshine for the tinies whose baby eyes have been sealed from the shining light, has been very fully described in these pages. But we need to remember that there is room for only twenty-five

babies in that home of delight, and the length of the waiting list is heartbreaking. Think of the pitiful baby down in a back-street "living-room," wedged into a corner by a towel-rail fence, counting its dirty little fingers as it sits there in the dark, with nothing to occupy the baby mind, no chance to learn what visions of joy, what interesting "games of play" are possible even for the baby that is blind if someone only lets the sunshine through the darkened windows of the mind. If we remind ourselves often enough and think long enough of these things, there will be sunshine for more than twenty-five blind babies before very long, and that waiting list will surely be wiped out.

S. B. P.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind.

FICTION.

Dr. Lavendar's People, 4 vols.....*Margaret Deland*
The War and Elizabeth, 4 vols. *Mrs. Humphrey Ward*
Anna the Adventuress, 4 vols. *E. Phillips Oppenheim*
Little Ship, 4 vols. "Taffrail"
Uttermost Farthing, 2 vols.....*Mrs. Belloc Lowndes*
Chip, 4 vols.....*F. E. Mills Young*

MISCELLANEOUS.

Commentary on Holy Bible—New Testament vols.
1—9 (in continuation).....*Ed. by J. R. Dummelow*
Glory in the Grey: Forty-two Talks on every day
Life and Religion, 3 vols. *A. Alexander*
Devonshire Idyls, 2 vols. *H. C. O'Neill*
Irish Memories, 5 vols. *E. A. Somerville and M. Ross*
Seafarers, 4 vols. *Major Corbett-Smith*
The Christ we forget: a Life of Our Lord for men of
to-day, 4 vols.....*P. W. Wilson*
Christian Creed: its Origin and Significance, 2 vols.
.....*C. W. Leadbeater*

Mystic Rose (fragment of the Vision of Sheihk Haji
Ibrahim) of Kerbela, 2 vols.

.....*translated by L. Fairfax Cartwright*
Sadhana, 2 vols. *Rabindranath Tagore*

ESPERANTO.

English-Esperanto Dictionary*J. C. O'Connor*
Granda Vizago el Stono*N. Hawthorne*
"Esperanto" Artikoloj el la Gazeto—1918-19

GRADE III.

Voices from the Void.....*Hester Travers Smith*

MOON.

From the Fire Step, 5 vols. *A. G. Empey*
East Lynne, 17 vols. *Mrs. Henry Wood*

OOOO

THOSE of our readers who know Italian will be interested to hear that the fortnightly magazine, *Il Corriere dei Ciechi*, is now available from the Casa di Rieducazione e di Laboro, Florence, Italy.

FACULTY OF THE BLIND TO "SEE."

A LECTURE was delivered at the St. James' Hall, Sunderland, by Mr. J. A. Charlton Deas (Director of the Sunderland Public Libraries, Museum, and Art Gallery), entitled "Further Experiments on 'Showing' to the Blind, together with some hints to the sighted." Experiments by the lecturer several years ago on "The Showing of Museums and Art Galleries to the Blind" by touch created considerable interest among the blind and those concerned in education, many of the features having been universally adopted.

In the present lecture, which was illustrated, Mr. Deas outlined further efforts in museum-showing, and also described an organised visit of blind men to London and its museums, public buildings, and the Zoo. He referred to the interest of the Sunderland blind during the war in following explanations of war weapons and descriptions of war trophies handled by them. They were the first to "see" and "inspect" the "Tank" bank when it visited their town.

Experiments in pottery-making as an occupation for the blind were supported with illustrations.

In speaking of the versatility of determined blind people, he named various men and women, who, though handicapped by blindness, left their mark in the realms of art, literature, sociology and science.

Mr. Deas commented on the remarkable ignorance of many kindly and well-meaning people, when dealing with the blind, and offered advice in "Twenty Don'ts," of which a few are:—

Don't treat blind people as though they were abnormal specimens of humanity!

Don't talk to a blind man as though he were deaf as well as blind!

Don't make unnecessary or unusual revisions in conversation, such as withdrawing the word "see," and substituting "heard"; it's in the lingo of the blind!

Don't fail to speak, if only a word, on entering a room in which there is a blind person; it announces your presence, and helps to identification.

MINERS' BLINDNESS.



MINERS' nystagmus (eye disease), with special reference to its serious economic effects, was the subject of a paper read by Dr. T. Lister Llewelyn at a meeting of the North Staffordshire Institute of Mining Engineers recently. Dr. Llewelyn is the medical officer to the mutual assurance company formed by the North Staffordshire colliery owners. An occupational disease of the nervous system, miners' nystagmus is found only among workers in coal mines, said Dr. Llewelyn. The first symptom is failure of sight, especially at night time, or when the sufferer is called upon to perform the more skilled portions of his work. The man then complains that the lamps dazzle his eyes, and sooner or later that the lamps and all surrounding objects dance before him. Headache, varying from slight pain between the temples to attacks of extreme severity, giddiness on exertion or stooping, inability to see at night time, and dread of light are often present. Physical signs of the disease are involuntary and irregular movements of the eyeballs, chiefly of a rotatory character, tremor of the eyelids, eyebrows, head, and, in some cases, even of the neck and shoulders.

Dealing with the economic aspect of the disease, Dr. Llewelyn estimated that if a man were off work for a year the loss to the country would be at least £359, made up of £65 compensation and £294 loss of coal output (235 tons at 25s. a ton, pithead price). He calculated that since 1913 there had been at least 6,000 men disabled each year from nystagmus, and that if it were assumed that each case "played" six months in the year, the total direct cost to the country would be 3,000 times £359, or over a million pounds a year. This disablement of workers meant a loss of nearly three-quarters of a million tons of coal a year, and a cost of one penny per ton on coal.

He believed many small accidents, and probably some severe accidents, were the direct result of the disease; and there was always the possibility that a catastrophe might result from the failure of a fireman or collier suffering from the disease failing to detect the presence of gas. He had examined forty-one nystagmus cases for the detection of the fire-damp "cap" on the safety lamp. Only four detected it correctly, and sixteen failed to see the "cap."

Deficiency of illumination was the dominating factor in the causation of the disease, and, in his opinion, was so important that all other factors became insignificant.

In the prevention of the disease three main considerations must be taken into account:—

(1) Nystagmus is a disease of gradual onset, and the average number of years of under-ground life before failure was twenty-five years in Dr. Llewelyn's opinion; (2) the illumination in open-light pits is five times that in safety-light pits; (3) cases of nystagmus, although uncommon, do occur in naked-light pits.

The conclusions he drew were:—(1) The full benefit of any measures taken will not be effective for some years; (2) the illumination in safety-light pits must be increased at least fivefold; (3) nystagmus will not be completely eradicated.

Dr. Llewelyn strongly urged research work to discover a better illuminant for safety-light mines, suggesting that the Mining Association of Great Britain and the Miners' Federation should each subscribe £50,000 to a research fund.

Coal, he added, is wanted everywhere, and when you improve the illumination of the coal mine you will not only diminish the incidence of nystagmus and lessen the frequency of accident, but you will also increase the coal output. Nystagmus not only causes total disablement, but is also responsible for

lessened production in men who have not yet failed.

* * *

In reply to the above, Dr. J. S. Haldane writes :—

"I should like to support very strongly Dr. Llewelyn's plea for better and more rational lighting. We cannot of course go back to lamps which are not safe in the presence of gas, although, with the general adoption of stone-dusting, gas ignitions will have lost most of their dangers. With improved oil safety-lamps and electric hand-lamps it is now possible to get a light of about one candle-power. This is a great improvement; but owing to the necessity of the lamp being some distance from the work, the actual illumination, as Dr. Llewelyn points out, is not sufficient, and not nearly equivalent to the illumination got by a candle or the old-fashioned oil lamp carried on the cap.

"When I had an opportunity, in 1916, of trying in American mines the electric light carried on the cap, or on the body in front, and connected by a cable to the accumulator carried on the belt behind, it seemed to me that a practical solution had been found of the difficulty of obtaining adequate illumination. The illumination of what a man is actually working at is something like ten times what it is with an ordinary lamp, placed, necessarily, at some distance. The comfort and convenience of these lamps is also very marked, partly because the hands are always free, and partly because one is not dazzled by the lamp of another man walking in front. As regards safety, these lamps have been thoroughly tested under the superintendence of the Bureau of Mines, which now has a research organization putting this country to shame.

"Electric head-lamps were introduced in this country many years ago, but had to be withdrawn in view of regulations. I have long felt that the legal provisions as to lamps are too inelastic and artificial. For instance, the absolute forbidding of a relighting arrangement makes it very difficult for a fireman to test properly for gas. In Germany, for contrast, a relighting device in every lamp is compulsory by regulation. In view, particularly, of the great importance of preventing the suffering and loss caused by miners' nystagmus, it is to be hoped that the present regulations will soon be modified."

BLIND MEN AND LITERATURE.

THE fact that a small, thriving institution in Edinburgh has recently celebrated its twenty-first anniversary calls for attention :—

Started in December, 1898, with the express aim and object of brightening the leisure hours of blind men resident in the city by the reading aloud of standard literature, the Edinburgh Club for reading to the Blind has amply justified its existence. The movement was the outcome of a letter to *The Scotsman*, written by a blind man in October, 1898, who pleaded that his class should be put in a better position to become acquainted with the works of our best authors. Replies followed from two correspondents, who started the club, and who ever since have held office as president and secretary.

Each session has lasted from October to June. From 7.45 to 8.15 p.m. the members listen to a summary of what is going on in the world as recorded in the Press, and throughout the war were kept in full touch with events. 8.15 to 9 has always been regarded as the "serious" portion of the evening, and lighter literature is read from 9 to 10.

Many lectures by prominent speakers have been delivered from time to time, and well-known local vocalists, instrumentalists and elocutionists have given great pleasure at club social meetings and concerts.

Readers, lecturers and entertainers have acknowledged that their efforts to educate and amuse provided mutual pleasure, and that more attentive listeners could not be found anywhere. During the current session the audience were augmented by several blind women workers, whose fingers were busy knitting while the reading was going on.

The funds are furnished by readers and friends at home and abroad, as well as by the public, who respond to an occasional appeal made through the medium of the Press. An annual donation is given by the directors of the Royal Blind Asylum and by the Rosebery Charity Committee, whose funds are derived from football. No charge whatever is made for membership, but the blind members insist on contributing voluntarily a small amount per week, and at the end of the month handing over the total to the treasurer.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—No. 39.

MARCH, 1920.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.



NOTHING exasperates a blind man more than to be talked *about* instead of talked *to*; to have a third person catechised about his wishes instead of being invited to speak for himself. Yet this is done with a quite amazing frequency, and not every blind man has such an outspoken advocate as the lively little wife of a blinded officer who took him out to tea with a tender-hearted but thoughtless aunt. "Does he take sugar?" came the whispered query, with a compassionate look, and a gentle quaver in the voice. "He does," was the smiling wife's prompt reply; "and he talks, too, Aunt Emmeline, and he isn't deaf, and he really won't bite! So it's quite safe to ask him direct!" Then she went over and made the peace with a kiss, for Aunt Emmeline's eyes had filled with tears; but she never made *that* mistake again.

In the minds of people who irritate the blind man in this fashion there is surely some confusion between deafness and blindness. They certainly seem to act on the supposition that those who lose their sight are at the same time deprived of their power of hearing; a ridiculous error, for except that from each has been taken a most important physical sense, there is no point of resemblance. Indeed, Dr. Harry Best, in his book dealing with the Condition of the Blind and the Work being done for them in the United States, says, "The gulf that really separates the blind from the deaf is far

deeper than that which lies between either of the two classes and the normal population." Again, someone comparing the state of the deaf and the blind, said once that if each were to form a colony "the deaf would have less poetry, but more bread and butter; fewer artists, but a greater number of useful artisans." And those who have lived in intimate companionship with both the blind and the deaf will feel that there is this marked distinction very often between the two outlooks upon life.

Another popular fallacy is that all blind people are musically gifted; and, too, we all know the ignorant person who goes about fully persuaded that piano-tuning and basket-making are the only possible channels into which the blind man may throw his energies. Whereas, the blind are very like their sighted comrades, some musical, some not, some with leanings towards one profession or business, some with a bent in quite other directions.

But perhaps the misconception met with most frequently of all is the idea that blind people are trebly endowed with the sense of hearing. They listen harder, but they have no special and mysterious endowment. The blind are not suddenly equipped, at the moment of losing their sight, with added gifts, showered upon them like manna from Heaven; theirs is no complete outfit of new faculties, it is rather the determination to concentrate, *to make good*. Sighted people depend too much upon their eyes. The man who loses the sight of his eyes is thrown back into himself, and is often surprised to find how keen are all his other senses when once they are fully awakened and alert.

Those who know the blind, and realise to what a high level of intellectual achievement

they can reach by exercising to the full those other senses that most sighted people only half use, are amused when they find, as is not seldom the case, that there are folks thoughtless enough to imagine that mental deficiency follows in the wake of blindness. Those who love him best may hinder the blind man's progress most if their sympathy insists that he can do nothing for himself. If they will not believe that he can wash and dress himself, if they consider it nothing short of dangerous to let him have a dinner knife at table to cut up the food upon his plate, if they are not willing to let him stir a step outside the door alone, then they are raising many barriers in his path; their very eagerness to help him is paralysing his vigour of brain, his independence of spirit. It is, too, casting a slur upon his intelligence.

Sir Arthur Pearson tells a good story of a kind attendant at the Swimming Baths where he very often goes. This good man is at his side at once when he sees him making for the steps to leave the water after his swim. "There you are, sir; one—two—three—four; careful; now just a step to your door, sir, and the looking-glass is just to your left in the corner." One hardly knows, as Sir Arthur points out, what to make of the attitude of mind of one who, while taking it for granted that a blind man cannot count, yet forgetfully imagines that he has some use for a mirror in his dressing-room!

Fiction writers are not altogether to blame for the popular misconceptions concerning the blind. We often find blind characters in our literature. To take just a few, we have Shakespeare's "King Lear"; Rochester in Charlotte Brontë's "Jane Eyre"; Kipling's story of "The Light that Failed"; Dickens, in the "Cricket on the Hearth" and "Barnaby Rudge," introduces blind people; while in three of Sir Walter Scott's novels there are blind characters; Amyas Leigh, also, we remember in "Westward Ho"; Pew in Stevenson's "Treasure Island"; Muriel in "John Halifax, Gentleman"; George Du Maurier and Edward F. Benson have given us pictures of the artists' black horror and fight against despair as he realises that the sight of his eyes is forsaking him; and just recently "Keith's Dark Tower," an American novel, portrayed very faithfully the character of the young man of grit, who, stricken early with blindness, determines

to scorn all pity and be self-helpful and independent, and, despite all difficulties, fight his way back to the normal life.

No, on the whole, fiction writers give a fairly all-round picture, though perhaps, knowing the sympathetic leaning of their readers, there may be a tendency to dwell unduly on the pitiableness of the situation.

OOOO

WE have received particulars of a club which has been founded among the blind of Winnipeg, Manitoba. It is known as the "Lux in Tenebris Club," and was formed with a view to fellowship and mutual improvement. One of its aims is to bring its members into close touch with good music and literature. It is also concerned with the relief of indigent cases.

OOOO

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. Alfred Carr, whose interest in all questions affecting the well-being of the blind community was so well known. It will be remembered that Mr. Carr was an ex-pupil of the Royal Normal College, Norwood. Some years ago he undertook the responsibility of managing the London and Provincial Blind Tea Company, which was later amalgamated with the Blind Self-Aid Tea Company; he displayed considerable business ability in the management of the respective undertakings. Perhaps Mr. Carr will be best remembered by the efficiency which he displayed in conducting the affairs of the Blind Social Aid and Literary Union, for which organisation he acted as honorary secretary for some twelve years. This society is an association of self-supporting blind men, and holds meetings periodically for the purpose of social intercourse and the discussion of matters connected with the welfare of the blind. Mr. Carr was ever ready with his help and advice, and his influence will be greatly missed.

OOOO

ORGAN RECITAL.

A FREE Organ Recital is given to the general public every Wednesday at 1.15 p.m., the programme always being contributed by a blind organist, and frequently being varied by songs and piano and organ duets.

H. C. WARRILOW.



PEARSON'S FRESH AIR FUND.



SIR ARTHUR PEARSON, it will be remembered, in returning thanks for the gifts which were bestowed upon him at St. Dunstan's Hostel on December 15th, referred to the many interests which had filled his life. Amongst his other activities he mentioned the Children's Fresh Air Fund, that noble undertaking which has sowed the first seeds of health in so many feeble little bodies and given so many little minds their first glimpse of the beauties of nature.

"The one great need of a child," says Dr. Leonard Hill, "is freedom to play in the open air untrammelled and unnoticed by his elders."

How many of the feeble, puny-faced little denizens of London had the chance to do this before the Fresh Air Fund was inaugurated?

In the year's report which is now before us we see some wonderful figures. In twenty-eight years the Fund has sent no fewer than 4,040,547 poor children to the country for a day's holiday, and 53,940 children for a fortnight's holiday. In the year of its inauguration (1892), 20,000 poor East End children were taken to Epping Forest for a day, 40,000 were taken during the second summer, and year after year the number increased until in 1913 no fewer than 250,420 children in London and various towns in the United Kingdom had a day's treat, whilst 5,500 were taken away for two weeks. At this period the cost per child was only ninepence and ten shillings respectively. On the outbreak of war the work of the Fund was naturally curtailed, not only because of the falling off of subscriptions, but on account of the cost of provisions and transit, the lack of housing accommodation, and so forth. But the holidays were satisfactorily carried on, and culminated in a most successful season in 1919, when a total of 143,819 children were sent away for a day's holiday,

a holiday of a fortnight's duration being arranged for those who most needed it. During their day's outing the children revel in all the fun that is provided for them, their favourite pastime being undoubtedly the singing of songs in chorus.

The Fresh Air Fund is conducted on the system which was in vogue at its inauguration twenty-eight years ago. The only difference is the rise in price necessitated by existing conditions.

The promoters bear the cost of management, thus enabling all money subscribed to be spent on the children. Messrs. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., and the Shaftesbury Society and the Ragged School Union are the main pillars. The Shaftesbury Society and the Ragged School Union places its immense organisation freely at the disposal of the Fund. Local Committees all over the United Kingdom select the children, and make their own local arrangements. During the year many thousands of children were taken away from the Bethnal Green district, which, it will be remembered, was visited by H.M. the Queen during the spring. The condition of things in this area will be better understood when it is realized that the death-rate is three times higher than the average mortality for London, while the density of population is such that the borough has 417 inhabitants to the acre as against the acknowledged health standard of fifty-five! Some of the houses are never reached by the rays of the sun during any part of the day.

The Fresh Air Fund makes no distinction of class or creed. Poverty alone is the password, and those who are most necessitous are chosen first. These little ones have as great a right to God's sunshine as have their more favoured brothers and sisters, and inestimable indeed is the moral and physical value of this Fund, which is helping to build up the men and women of the future.

BRAILLE PICTURES.

ONE of the recent developments of the National Institute for the Blind is the extension of what may be called Braille Pictures. We give two illustrations, one of which shows an artist at work on the embossed diagram of St. Paul's Cathedral. This illustration is to be incorporated in a book on Architecture.

The National Institute for the Blind is now publishing Wells's "Outline of History," and incorporating therein many of the illustrations and diagrams.

OOOO

A REMARKABLE feature in Friendly Society work is the recent issue of tables of contributions and scales of benefits in Braille by the Church Benefit Society. This exceedingly valuable departure has been undertaken and carried out by the National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland

Street, and is another instance of this Institution's enterprise and activity in bringing every opportunity within the reach of the blind.

OOOO

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

THE next of the series of monthly piano recitals, given at the National Institute for the Blind to advertise the music in the National Library for the Blind, will take place on March 16th, at 7.30 p.m., and all those interested are cordially invited to be present.

PROBLEMS OF HEREDITY.

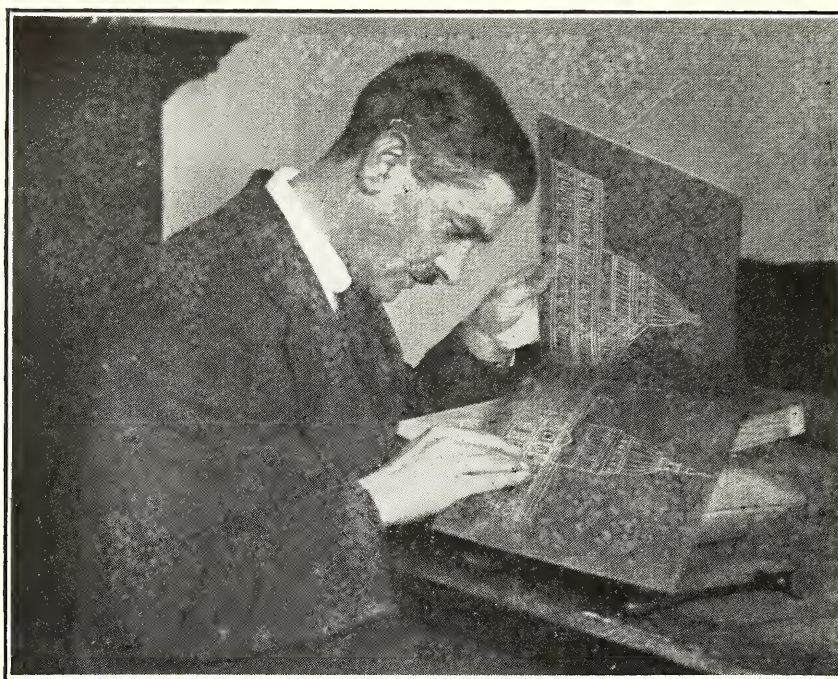
EIGHT GENERATIONS OF BLINDNESS.

DR. W. BATESON, in a lecture to London County Council teachers at King's College recently, dealt with the question of heredity. As indicating what heredity meant to the population of the world, the lecturer mentioned that night blindness had been traced through eight generations, not skipping one.

Other afflictions, including deformity, were sometimes carried on from generation to generation under curious circumstances, while the prospect of feeble-minded parents having children who were not similarly afflicted was practically nil. So far as colour blindness was concerned, Dr. Bateson said the results obtained were important. A man might have no progeny so afflicted, but there was no case reported of a colour blind woman having a son with normal sight.

OOOO

It is not Charity we ask,
But help to fit them for a task—
Who, when they heard stern Duty's call,
Were willing e'en to risk their all;
Not as a gift, but as their right
Give help to those who gave their sight.
A. GOUDY.



EXAMINING THE EMBOSSED METAL PLATES OF DIAGRAM OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

WOMEN OF VISION.

HELEN KELLER TALKS WITH DR. MONTESSORI.

DR. MARIA MONTESSORI, who has been conducting a lecture tour in England, has by her wise and pleasant methods of education, set the child free to realise himself. Helen Keller,

by her almost unbelievable achievement and by her uplifting and fascinating example, has taught blind and deaf people everywhere to break their bonds asunder and walk forth with head held high into the wide and open spaces of life's fullest enjoyment. It was, therefore, an unforgettable occasion when these two fearless and gifted

women met in New York. Miss Keller was accompanied by Mrs. John Macy, who, as Anne Sullivan, is equally famous with her wonderful pupil. Miss George, the head of the Montessori School in Washington and translator of "The Montessori Method," was also present at the interview, acting as interpreter. Helen Keller stepped forward and rested her hands on the shoulders of the great Italian teacher. She spoke at once, and her soul was reflected in her face. "Blessed are the feet of her who comes across the sea with a message of liberty to our children," were the first words addressed by Helen Keller to Dr. Montessori, and for a moment the Dottressa was too much moved to express what she felt. Miss Keller, speaking

in her amazingly distinct voice, congratulated Dr. Montessori on the great crowds that had, she was told, packed the lecture hall where she had been speaking the night before.

"Not all the thousands," was Dr.

Montessori's heartfelt reply, "meant one tenth as much to me as this meeting."

Later in the conversation it was remarked by Mrs. Macy that Helen Keller had not heard in what terms Dr. Montessori had dedicated one of her books to her.

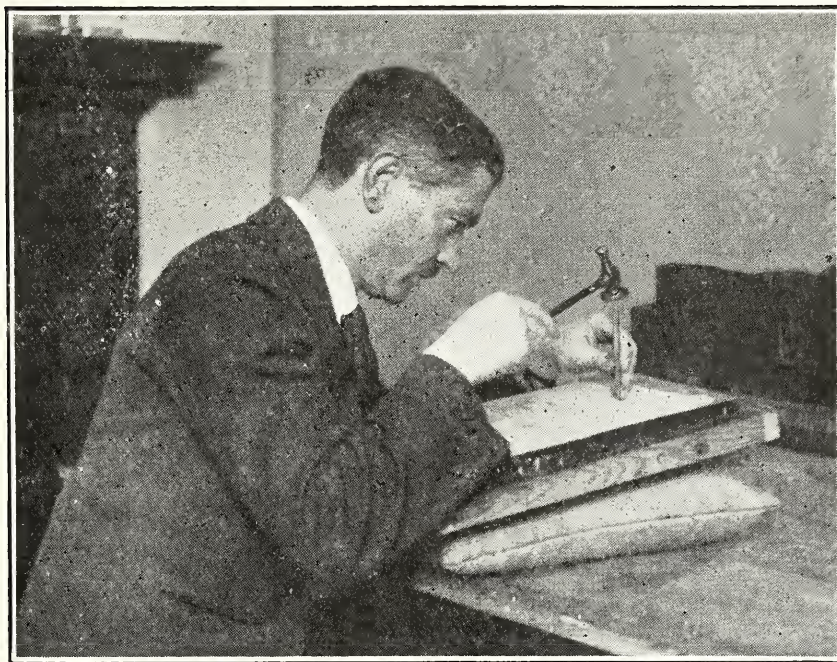
"I have said," exclaimed the Dottressa, turning quickly to her blind friend, "that I

have learned from you as pupil learns from master."

At this Helen Keller was almost shocked. "I myself am a product of the Montessori method," she said.

Mrs. Macy agreed, but added, "She is the creator of a soul, but you had the soul to be created."

"Tell her this," said Dr. Montessori, speaking swiftly in Italian, which Miss George translated. "Tell her my children understand her; they know the triumph of the soul over difficulties. But the children of the future, the men of the future, will understand her better than men do now, for they will be liberated and will know how the spirit can prevail over the senses."



MAKING A CORRECTION ON A METAL PLATE. (See page 4.)

The conversation ranged widely, discussing social and educational conditions, the need for enlightened parenthood and for inspiring teachers.

Once Miss Keller spoke a sentence or two in French, and Dr. Montessori exclaimed in surprise. "Oh! I speak French a little," said the gifted blind woman, adding with a smile, "Next time I see you I shall be able to speak with you in Italian—at Rome."

All the time the conversation lasted, Dr. Montessori was studying Miss Keller's face intently. At last she turned to Mrs. Macy. "In spite of all you say," she exclaimed, "in spite of all your explanations of how she was taught, I do not see how her spirit has such vision. She seems like a special revelation of God."

"Every child," said Helen Keller, "can be a special revelation of God, if he is taught properly and is allowed to live under right conditions." S. B. P.

THE BLIND AS TRUE LEADERS.

BY T. THOMPSON (*The Daily Dispatch*)

OUT of sheer shame, I cast away the hump when first came Billy and Co. to pass an odd hour or two with me. Lots of things had happened. My favourite books had jumped from 1s. to 2s. 4d., the butter (or was it "Maggie"?) had that fishy tang, the bacon was vociferously Amurrican, and—a hundred things had helped to fray the edges of a well-worn temper.

But when Billy and Co. came in, touching on each other's shoulders—how could I?—for I remember that Billy and Co. had walked behind that devilish curtain of fire until their turn came.

Then they paid up without a grumble. Billy and Co. would never see again. Blindness was the price.

Billy was laughing at his latest. For his sins he had been peeling potatoes, dropping them into a bowl upon the floor. When he had finished he found the bowl was empty. The terrier thought it was a fine game catching them as they dropped. Smiler, of the "and Co.," in getting out of his bath, had received quite a shock; he had felt an indescribable sensation in his big toe. Apprehensively he stooped to find the cause. It was the cat licking it. Those who know

the abrasive qualities of puss's tongue will appreciate.

Joe, the distinctly Lancastrian member of the "and Co.," not to be left behind, would demonstrate his prowess in Braille. But he broke down badly when well away on the straight. He touched here, he touched there, but he was clearly "bunkered," so he said to me, "*Aw could manage better if tha'd get out o' me leet.*"

That is the St. Dunstan's way; to exorcise by laughter the demons of darkness.

Billy is a Celt, and so has the gift of song. We took him to a concert at the Institute, and they asked him to "oblige." There he stood, leaning against the corner of the piano, his head bowed, his face glowing and handsome, notwithstanding the pathos of his sightless eyes. And thus he sang:—

"Sometimes between long shadows on the grass,
The little truant waves of sunlight pass.
My eyes grow dim with tenderness the while,
Thinking I see thee—thinking I see thee smile."

Not great poetry, perhaps, but Billy made it so.

It is a great boast of Billy and Co. that they put a policeman "wise" in a London fog, one of the cheesy sort. But they would put anything right. Before any dispute whatever was settled, I would lead Billy and Co. before the scrimmaging delegates, and Billy should sing. Twenty minutes should finish the job after that. How could they argue about tuppence here and tuppence there after they had seen these great-hearted lads?

They are not vindictive. They do not mope or whine. They are the most cheerful people alive. Are we to be worthy of them? Then let us switch the heat from our heads to our hearts, and set about our tasks with a new faith.

oooo

PRESENTATION TO MR. CARR.

AT the monthly meeting of the Committee of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Benwell Dene, a presentation was made to Mr. Ralph Carr in appreciation of his valuable services as Hon. Secretary over the long period of twenty-eight years.

The presentation, which included a travelling clock and a handbag for Mrs. Carr, was made by the Chairman (Mr. C. Burney Catnach), who referred in appreciative terms to Mr. Carr's long association with the Committee and his services on behalf of the school.

THE BORSTAL SYSTEM.



THE boy or girl who was convicted of crime in earlier days received much the same treatment as the habitual criminal. It is now, however, generally acknowledged that the young offender is not necessarily imbued with criminal instincts, and that his offence is more probably the outcome of lack of discipline or thoughtlessness. It was with the object of separating young offenders from criminals and of recovering them at an early stage to an honest way of life that State Reformatories, known as Borstal Institutions, the result of many years of experiment by Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise (Chairman of the Prison Commission), were established by the Prison Commissioners. Borstal Institutions, established in 1908 by Act of Parliament as part of our penal system, are to-day four in number.

The original Institution is at Borstal, a village on the hills above Chatham, from which the system took its name; another, at present in the possession of the Military Authorities, is at Feltham in Middlesex; another, for girls, at Aylesbury; and part of the prison at Canterbury has been created a Borstal Institution for the temporary reception of "incurables."

It is interesting to note the conditions under which young people are admitted to a Borstal Institution. A young offender may be sent either by a Judge or by a Court of Quarter Sessions, and either on indictment or on committal by a magistrate's court for that purpose, provided that he is between sixteen and twenty-one years of age, and that the court is satisfied that he is likely to profit by the treatment. The sentence of detention must be for a term of not less than two years, and not more than three, but an inmate may be released on licence after six months of the term if a boy, or after three months if a girl. If during the unexpired

part of the sentence and for a year afterwards he fails to satisfy the Secretary of State through the Borstal Association—the recognised society for after-care on release—that he is living an honest and industrious life, he may be taken back for a further period of reformatory training. Promotion, bringing increased privileges, such as association for games and meals and permission to receive visits and letters, is gained by a certain period of exemplary behaviour.

While it is quite possible to make an undeveloped but teachable lad into a strong and handy workman, Borstal does not pretend to teach a trade. Such a task cannot be achieved in a few months even with the most promising material, and a good deal of time is spent in the preliminary stages at Borstal in bringing mind and body up to a normal level of intelligence and self-restraint. The boys receive, however, a certain amount of training as bricklayers, carpenters, painters, smiths, shoemakers, gardeners, sea-cooks, and farmers. There is also an Army class. The rest are occupied in the laundry or in the domestic work of the Institution. Education also receives due attention.

But to give these young people an industrial training and to subject them while at the Institution to severe discipline and moral influences and then to turn them adrift on the world, either friendless or a prey to the disturbing influence of bad companions, would be but to discount the previous training and discipline. The Act which established Borstal Institutions also provides for supervision under licence and for after-care on release. The Institutions are visited twice a month by an officer sent by the Borstal Association, whose business it is to make arrangements for the discharge of any boy who has been passed by the Institution Board for licence. On the morning of his release the boy is provided with a complete outfit of new clothes, and is taken

to the office of the Association. His relations with the Association are clearly explained to him: its desire to help him to live honestly and its duty to report him for re-arrest if he fails to lead a sober and industrious life, and he is invited to keep in close touch with the Association. He is then sent on to his home or to the lodgings which have been found for him, and is received by the Associate in that district. He is provided with working clothes and tools; work is found for him, and, if necessary, money is provided to meet expenses of board and lodging until he is self-supporting. The local Associate thereafter exercises a close and friendly supervision.

Borstal Institutions are still in an early stage of development, but they have already proved their value, in that the great majority of the boys and girls who have received training are now living honestly. Such a result is of inestimable value to our country, for never before in the history of the nation has youth been so precious as it is to-day.



DURING their private visit to the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia on the 17th February, their Majesties the King and Queen showed great interest in six blind babies from "Sunshine House." The specially adapted Kindergarten methods employed at the Blind Babies Home were demonstrated, and the children sang a song to their Royal visitors. One of the children struggled with another to decide who should present the Queen with a bunch of violets. She was called to order by the nurse, and the Queen exclaimed: "Oh, Julia, don't fight!"

"The King! Where is the King?" they began to ask as soon as they were told that His Majesty had come to see them. At that moment there was a brilliant flash of light made by a photographer near by. Though the children could not see their Royal visitors, their eyes were sensitive to the vivid light, and they cried in chorus: "The sun! Nurse, is it the sun?"

On a previous occasion the blind babies paid a visit to the Exhibition and a demonstration was given of the most up-to-date Kindergarten education methods employed at Sunshine House.

The babies sing, play, dance, and recite like other happy little infants; they can speak of the blue sky, the songs of the birds, the petals of fair flowers, of their baby tables and chairs all painted white and decorated with nursery pictures like the delicate furniture of a beautiful dolls' house. Nothing they like better than a story, and they punctuate it with sage little sayings and fanciful ideas; they always want to see the Princess with hair like golden rain and the dragon who spouts fire.

The methods of education follow the highest modern standards. The babies are taught to hold themselves well, to understand rhythmic movement, to read Braille, to thread brightly-coloured beads, to recite and sing with appropriate actions, and all the ordinary Kindergarten subjects, by a special adaptation for the blind of the Montessori system. The piano and the gramophone are largely used for instruction purposes.

All the blind babies at "Sunshine House" are prettily and daintily dressed, and no child could be prouder of her blue ribbons than some golden-haired inmate of the ideal home on the hills.

There could not be a better demonstration of the influence of artistic, healthy environment than the comparison of a blind baby before it enters the home and after it has been there for some months. Unhealthy pallor and leanness give place to fat, rosy cheeks; little limbs grow sturdy and round; lung power and appetite increase to an alarming extent, and the blind baby becomes a perfect specimen of a normal child in all save eyesight, for which it is compensated by the special selective training.

oooo

THE BEST WRITTEN OR SPOKEN.

THE prize of £2 2s. for a Weekly Competition in the *Sunday Express* has been awarded to Mr. C. Vivian, 18, Harrington Square, N.W. 1, for the following extract:—

The hills, the woods and the fields, the sea and the winding courses of the rivers are hidden from us; we cannot see the buildings of our cities, nor our homes, nor the movements of life, nor the faces of our dear ones. There is much that we cannot see; there is one thing we will not see, if we can help it, and that is the gloomy side of our lives.—By Sir Arthur Pearson, in "Victory Over Blindness."

SCOPE FOR THE BLIND IN GENERAL OCCUPATIONS.

SOME PLANS AND EXPERIMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES.



THE great aim of those who have the best welfare of the blind at heart is to put them back into normal life, where they may work shoulder to shoulder with their sighted fellows. At one time this ambition may have been viewed askance by many, as suggesting a Council of Perfection. But many things—amongst others the successes achieved by the blinded soldiers trained at St. Dunstan's under the ægis of Sir Arthur Pearson—have taught us that Councils of Perfection are by no means as impracticable as they may seem to the first glance of the uninitiated and unbelieving.

The possible employment of blind people in general occupations means not only a setting in the normal life which is beneficial in the extreme to the blind worker, it means also the solving of economic problems in a way that is helpful to the community at large.

It is, in some instances, possible for blind workers to be put into general shops or factories to pursue their daily round alongside sighted operatives. This is an enviable state of affairs, for it means working under conditions which make the blind man forget his handicap. Still, it is clear that such work must be limited.

It is, again, possible to have special contrivances and a certain amount of helpful supervision, so that blind operatives may work in a general shop or factory, but have the benefit of advantages which help them to overcome their handicap.

Then work may be done at home, work that is not of the sort usually thought of in connection with the blind, but work of a general character done at home to avoid risks which employers feel exist on every hand when the blind work beside the sighted.

Certain it is that the very kindness of the employers close possible trades to the blind

in a number of instances. In Dr. Harry Best's book dealing with the condition of the Blind in America, and the work being done for them there, he emphasises this point. After stating that employers are often found very sceptical as to the capabilities of the blind, fearing that the work attempted by blind men may end in blunder, however earnestly and carefully they try to do it, he further quotes from the Report of the Massachusetts Commission, 1910: "While there are many well-disposed manufacturers who would be perfectly willing to provide opportunities for a few persons without sight, their very good-will makes them shrink from assuming what seems to them a large risk of injury to blind individuals who might enter their establishments."

Of course it is obvious that blind operatives must be safeguarded from the dangers of machinery, which rules out many occupations; and it is equally clear that, whatever his manual skill or mental equipment, no blind man can take up an appointment which requires him to inspect work performed, and hold himself responsible for the discovery of possible flaws. This still further restricts the number of general occupations open to the blind worker.

In the volume just mentioned dealing with the work being done for the Blind in the United States, we find the enumeration of a number of occupations tested, with more or less success, by blind workers, and the list coincides in many instances with experiments made in England. Of those calling for unskilled labour, "some of the most important brought forward," we read, "are the assembling of articles, the packing of boxes, or packages, the attending of automatic weighing or filling machines, the folding or cutting of paper, pasteboard, or other material in certain processes, the running of strings in certain processes, the bending of pins or wires in certain processes, the sticking of pins

or pegs in certain processes, the smoothing or rough polishing or varnishing of certain surfaces, the stripping of tobacco, and similar operations."

In continuing this very lengthy list we read: "Of recent years there has appeared a form of work for the blind that is deserving of special mention. This is in connection with the manufacture of certain parts of electrical appliances, in which sight may not be altogether necessary. Such work consists mainly in the insulation, or the wrapping with tape, of coils for armatures to be used in motors and dynamos.

"Other possible operations include the assembling or adjusting of certain parts and like tasks, and in respect of such work it is said its quality 'is pronounced by official inspectors absolutely as good as that of sighted labour.' The feature of greatest encouragement here," the author continues, "is that with the general growth and development of electrical industries there may be an increasing place for the blind, perhaps eventually to be extended to other industries."

It is regretted that in the United States "there has been so little of actual experience in respect of the employment of the blind in company with the seeing. With a larger and more general testing of their competence there might be a material expansion of the openings available for them. There is small doubt that there is considerably more work capable of being done by them than is now believed."

Going on to the professions and skilled business pursuits, we find that in America, as here, Massage has been tried—though one hardly gathers that the same triumphant measure of success has been reached in the United States as our blinded soldiers have attained in England; office management and skilled clerical work, stenography and telephone operating are amongst the callings enumerated; businesses of various sorts, work of many kinds within the sphere of Music, and in addition to "lines which may be said to be already established ones for the blind," market gardening and poultry-farming are mentioned. And the Americans agree with our English view that in many of these occupations, such, for instance, as poultry-farming, it is most important to have a sighted fellow worker, "in particular a wife," is the very sane parenthesis.

S. B. P.

ROME SAVED BY A BLIND MAN.

PLUTARCH relates that after Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, had gained a victory over the Romans, with whom he was at war, he made certain offers of peace to them, and many of the senators were willing to accept them. But Appius Claudius, "a famous man who came no more to the Senate nor dealt in matters of State at all by reason of his age and partly because he was blind," when he heard of this weakness on the part of the Senate, "caused his servants to carry him in his chair upon their arms unto the Senate door; his sons and sons-in-law taking him in their arms, carried him so into the Senate House. The Senate made silence to honour the coming in of so notable and worthy a personage, and he, so soon as they had sat him in his seat, began to speak in this sort:—

" 'Hitherunto, with great impatience, my Lords of Rome, have I borne the loss of my sight, but now I would I were also as deaf as I am blind, that I might not, as I do, hear the report of your dishonourable consultations determined upon in Senate, which tend to subvert the glorious fame and reputation of Rome. What is now become of all your great and mighty brags you blazed abroad through the whole world? That if Alexander the Great himself had come into Italy, in the time that our fathers had been in the flower of their age, and we in the prime of our youth, they would not have said everywhere that he was altogether invincible, as now at this present they do: but either he should have left his body slain here in battle, or at the leastwise have been driven to fly, and by his death or flying should greatly have enlarged the renown and glory of Rome. You plainly show it now, that all these words spoken then were all vain and arrogant vaunts of foolish pride . . . And therefore you must not persuade yourselves that in making peace with Pyrrhus you shall thereby be rid of him, but rather shall draw others to come and set upon you besides.'

"After that Appius had told this tale unto the Senate, every one, through the whole assembly, desired rather war than peace."

And so, in the end, Pyrrhus was forced to leave Italy, thanks to the noble courage of a blind man.

TRAINING THE BLIND.



At the recent meeting of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind, Mr. A. J. Story gave an interesting address on the training of the blind. He said that the psychology of those who were born blind must be essentially different from that of children whose sight up to a particular age enabled them to gather and store visual impressions of the world around them. Many parts of knowledge, such as colour, distance, expanse, size, and the beauties of shape and form, could never be complete in those whose minds had not received these impressions visually and consciously at some time or another.

"The limitation," Mr. Story went on to say, "is a serious one, for the immeasurably greater part of our knowledge of the outside world is gained through the sense of sight. Even what we read only becomes really intelligible to us when related to the concrete knowledge we have gained, most of it through sight, of the things about and around us.

"If you want a really hard job, try to teach a born-blind child to dance. There is the initial lack of the proper sense of position, locality, direction and movement, all naturally dependent upon sight, to overcome; and it may be overcome to a remarkable extent by the artificial means of placing the limbs, moving them in the proper directions, and rhythm, until the entire synthesis of movement, direction and rhythm becomes automatic. Similar procedures are necessary for developing a knowledge of games, drills and physical exercises generally.

"Extending this thought to handwork by the blind-minded child, it is easy to see that he has no really complete concept of the basket or other thing he is making. His mind cannot picture the thing as the sight-minded can, and he can only realise it in terms of the sense by which he must

receive its impressions—touch, aided by the muscular sense of movement. Thus, the idea of a circle, say of a basket bottom or top, can only be appreciated by a numberless quantity of touch impressions met with in a circular movement of the hand. The tendency to educate in words only, and not in things, is a real danger in all forms of teaching; but in the training of the blind it is easily the 'besetting sin' of teachers. The blind-minded child can pass through his school period and leave at the age of sixteen with little real concrete knowledge of the simplest things, although he can talk like an oracle about them.

"To avoid this error of instruction, and to effect the real education of the blind, the basis of all teaching must be physical; and all through, touch, actual and positive touch, should meet the concrete at all available points. You can develop into the abstract, the symbolical, and the higher forms of thought only if the knowledge of the concrete be real and intimate, for every abstraction has its roots in the concrete and is nurtured by imagination. The fingers, therefore, must be trained as it were 'to see,' and the inferior senses of smelling and tasting enlisted into the service of intelligent understanding, the ear being called upon to explain the whys and the wherefores of the things thus brought before the notice of the blind mind. In this way, and in this way only, whether in ordinary school subjects, physical work, or manual and industrial occupations, can the blind mind be brought to the highest possible point of efficiency in real knowledge, and in developing to the fullest extent the inborn faculties. And even then there is the inevitable shortage as compared with the sighted mind, which may be briefly summed up in the one word, 'appearances'—the visual impressions of things as they are.

"This education by the substitution of a sense not naturally designed for the purpose is a difficult and lengthy process."

ST. DUNSTAN'S FROM AN AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW.



HOW the personality of Sir Arthur Pearson has been made to effect regeneration among the men blinded in the war will always be a great story of character and service. In the following letter, written by a visitor to London to a friend in East Orange, and reproduced in a New Jersey paper, first hand impressions are recorded:—"I visited St. Dunstan's hostel for blinded sailors and soldiers this morning," he writes, "saw the cheerful fellows at work at many trades, touched the psychological atmosphere of this marvellous reconstruction work, and talked with Sir Arthur Pearson, the veritable god in the whole machine. The blinded soldiers of the Empire number over 1,500. . . . Graduation from St. Dunstan's means that the graduate has achieved mastery of some trade or calling and is competent to face the world and be independent. Every graduate is set up with tools and other aids in his chosen calling, and is never lost sight of.

"The work of caring for the blind is only beginning when he leaves St. Dunstan's; such is Sir Arthur Pearson's idea. Within the hostel he is looked upon as a normal man, who has lost his sight, and he is taught to believe and to demonstrate his belief that he can do anything that a man who has his sight can do. By the magic power of sympathy he lifts himself up to that plane. By patience, sympathy and encouragement those who have lost their sight are resurrected into a new world where they are self-confident, self-reliant and self-supporting. And forever that new world must be preserved to them through the loving kindness of those with whom they come in contact.

"Aladdin rubbing his lamp never did a more wonderful thing than Sir Arthur Pearson has done by his genius for understanding others and organizing society to co-operate with him. These heroes repair boots and make clogs, construct furniture and curious cabinets, turn out baskets of all

kinds, weave mats, knit hammocks and nets, run typewriters, take dictation in shorthand, read, learn to speak in public, operate a telephone exchange, perfect themselves in massage, find pleasure and profit in poultry farming. And they do it with a cheerfulness that makes a man who sees realize that he has never been sufficiently grateful for the blessedness of sight. The man who has lost his sight is more cheerful than the man who has always had his sight.

"Throughout the British Empire After-Care arrangements have been made through the efforts of Sir Arthur Pearson, so that the man who has lost his sight through the war and has passed through St. Dunstan's will always know that there are those about him who consider his permanent welfare a paramount duty.

"Sir Arthur Pearson does not give you the impression that he is a blind man. He walks about his office as if he saw. He addresses his visitors, first one then the other, turning to each in turn, and with gesture and animation dispels all gloom. He is the personification of cheerfulness for himself and others. He frankly confesses he is proud of the work he has been able to do in behalf of those who, like himself, have lost the power of seeing."

OOOO

THE Ministry of Health are now making grants in aid of the blind, and, with a view to co-ordination of effort, have secured the close co-operation of the National Institute for the Blind, of which Sir Arthur Pearson is President. A Joint Committee representing the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, which sits at the Ministry, and the National Institute for the Blind, has accordingly been set up to advise on matters which jointly concern them, and a desire is expressed that ways of diminishing overlapping and of preventing waste of effort in the collection of voluntary contributions shall, among other things, be considered.

FROM RED CROSS TO ST. DUNSTAN'S.

ON the afternoon of January 29th, in the grounds of St. Dunstan's, representatives of the committee of the Workpeople's Association of Messrs. W. D. & H. O. Wills, Bristol, presented to St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors a six-cylinder Vauxhall car. The presentation was made by Mr. W. Alvis, chairman of the committee, on behalf of the 6,000 workers at Messrs. Wills' factories, and Mr. A. G. Justin, the secretary of the committee, related how the car had in June, 1917, been presented to the Red Cross as an ambulance, and how after excellent war service it had eventually reverted back to the committee, which unanimously decided to continue the car's "war work" by

presenting it to St. Dunstan's as a mark of sympathy and appreciation. Capt. Ricketts, the Western representative of the National Institute for the Blind, had accordingly been approached, and the car was brought up from Bristol to be personally presented to Sir Arthur Pearson. The latter, in thanking the committee for their most generous gift, said that it was a gift which would be of immense use in connection with the men of St. Dunstan's.

Mr. Frank Wills, the honorary treasurer of the committee, who was unable to be present, was represented by Mr. G. E. Powell, the assistant manager of Messrs. W. D. & H. O. Wills.



PRESENTATION OF CAR TO ST. DUNSTAN'S.

LE PAYS DE LEURS PÈRES*

(By Paul Wenz)



THIS is the story of "Jim," the Australian, who came over to fight in the cause of justice, was blinded, sent to St. Dunstan's, and returned to his beloved country to "make good." Jim was born at Lone Man Plain, very far away from any other human habitation. The hut in which Jim was born was made of bark. When the little Australian baby was two or three years old his father built a cottage, which contained a most wonderful thing. Its wallpaper was formed of illustrated papers. Years afterwards, when inward vision was all that remained, our hero could recall every detail of the wonderful pictures which had formed a veritable encyclopædia of history, geography, science and the arts. In the evenings his father would read aloud out of books which told of life in the old country, and these two things, the wallpaper and the books, were the great and abiding influences of Jim's early childhood. His earliest playmates were dogs and a small kangaroo, but soon there were other children to play with. The station grew apace, and a school was formed, where he and fourteen others received an excellent education. The school years were, however, short, for there was men's work to be done, and the boys were eager to start. Jim became a worker at the station, and lived at the homestead near the river. On Sundays he went to see his parents, and each time he would scan the well-known walls, which held all his youth, his dreams and his ambitions.

And so life went on, and the day's work was only varied by the call of the seasons. "One morning Jim was crossing the paddock when he saw the 'mailman' approaching. Jim reined in his horse, cut some tobacco and filled his pipe. 'What news?' he called

out to the man as soon as he was within earshot. The mailman, with a nod of greeting, observed, 'Pat Flannery knocked out Bill the Sailor after the eighth round at Sydney; England has declared war on Germany!' After a moment devoted to flicking the flies off his horse, he added, disconsolately, 'I'd got a pound on Bill'"

That night the declaration of war was amply discussed among the men, but there was little enthusiasm, and no one appeared to feel any hatred towards the Germans. But when the next mail arrived, and with it the news of the invasion of Belgium, feelings underwent a complete change. Jim was one of the first to volunteer. His training took place at Sydney, and after two months the men embarked. "The weather was fine. The fleet consisted of thirty-eight transports escorted by five convoys. There were some 30,000 men: Australians, Tasmanians and New Zealanders—an expedition such as has never before been seen—an army of peace-loving men who had never felt the heavy hand of the invader—an army without hatred—which was about to take a voluntary share in the bloodiest war in all history. All classes were represented, from the employée at the Bank of Brisbane or Townsville to the stockman from the large interior stations. The miner from Cloncurry and New Guinea, the pearl fisher of Western Australia, the planter from the New Hebrides, the sheep shearer from Riverina, the sugar-cane cutter from Burdekin, the opal hunter from Lightning Ridge, the sapphire hunter from Emmaville—they had all responded to the call. Enthusiasts all and generous, large-hearted breaknecks, they were the true offsprings of those pioneer adventurers who more than half a century ago had made this selfsame voyage in an opposite direction to try their luck in those large islands of the Pacific."

The book follows the fortunes of Jim and two or three of his companions, tells of the

* "Le Pays de Leurs Pères." Roman par Paul Wenz, Calmann-Lévy, Editeurs, Paris.

landing at Gallipoli, the horrors and humours of trench life—the cheeriness of the men.

"There was Simpson, from the North of Queensland, whose left arm had been blown off. A companion had dressed the wound roughly and was taking him to the dressing station, when suddenly Simpson started to retrace his footsteps. His friend remonstrated, but, 'I'm going back to look for my arm,' he shouted. 'Your arm,' said his friend, 'It's no good to you now. Come back, or you'll be killed!' 'My arm no good to me? By golly, what about my watch-bracelet?' He found his arm, *and* his watch-bracelet, and became the gayest of one-armed fellows. Two days later a shell burst near Jim. He raised his hand to his eyes, and he knew that he was blind. . . ."

Five o'clock on a dark winter's afternoon. Dick raises the blind of the compartment, which had been lowered on account of Zepps. He sees through a bluish haze a sea of roofs, a multitude of chimney-pots, unlighted streets, London at last. Hip, hip, hurrah! The cry comes from many throats, and Jim hears it and responds. 'I shan't see the Old Country,' says he, 'but I shall walk on the ground which our fathers and grandfathers trod. . . . Good old England!' " Jim and his friend Dick, who has lost an arm, are taken to hospital, where they are well and carefully tended, and Jim is told that when his wounds have healed he will be sent to St. Dunstan's, the Hostel where men are "taught to be blind." He is sad at the thought of separation from his pal Dick and his favourite nurse Joan. At the hospital were several of his old friends, whose histories are recounted.

Especially interesting are the impressions of London which we get from the pen of one of the Aussies. We quote the following:—

"*Climate.* The English climate has been much abused. This is a mistake. A month's sojourn in this country has convinced me that their unique climate has made the Anglo-Saxons what they are, namely, the best colonisers of the whole world. My first impression of the climate was distinct, my one desire was to get out of it as soon as possible.

"London is too large.

"There are too many women. I have seen 40,000 of them in a procession one Saturday afternoon. It's too much all at once."

"There are too many dogs. I have suggested several means of exterminating them, but have been informed that my ideas are not practicable and might cause a revolution." And so on.

Jim went to St. Dunstan's, and although he had to face many a moment of black despair, he very soon became imbued with the spirit of cheerfulness which is the chief characteristic of that "house of good comfort." There follows an account of his studies in Braille and poultry-farming, which we will not detail, as the descriptions tally with those already so well known to our readers. It suffices to say that Jim had very soon "learnt to be blind," and that he came to take an active part in the social life of St. Dunstan's, of which an animated description is given, together with a sympathetic pen-picture of matron and nurses.

Of course there is a love-story—a very simple little one, but quite charming. For Nurse Joan, who was the first to welcome Jim on English soil, and who has taken loving care of him throughout his sojourn in the Old Country, becomes his wife. Well fitted to take up the threads of life, he returns with her to his parents in Australia. Together the two visit his boyhood's haunts, and examine the wallpaper with its scenes of English life which exercised so profound an influence on his childish mind. And Jim says, "I shall never regret what I have sacrificed for the 'Old Country,' for the 'Old Country' has amply rewarded me." And so the book ends to the sound of wedding bells, and "all's well with the world."

OOOO

BLIND ORGANIST'S DISTINCTION.

MR. FRANK SELBY, organist of St. Anne's Church, Duddeston, and a student at the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, was successful in passing the recent Fellowship examination of the Royal College of Organists. Mr. Selby attended at the College to receive his diploma at the hands of the President (Dr. Buck). It is for the purpose of helping such students that the institution is now making a special appeal for the provision of an up-to-date organ, which it is proposed to erect in the gymnasium. The present organ, which was built about seventy years ago, is now practically obsolete.

The Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham.

THE Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, presents a favourable report for the year ending March 31st, 1919. On that date the number of persons connected with the Institution was 115. This includes fifty-seven pupils living in the Boarding Houses, three day pupils and forty-nine workpeople and adult learners.

The sales amounted to £19,063 12s. 1d. The wages paid to blind workpeople (including an augmentation grant of £314 19s. 9d. from the Institution funds) amounted to £2,513 7s. 5d. A Government Grant of £490 was received for technical instruction.

**MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL
INSTITUTE.**

THE monthly concert on January 26th was most enjoyable. Mme. Louise Anselmi and Mr. Etchevarria delighted the large audience in their rendering of Italian and English songs, while Miss McTavish showed herself an able pianist both in Schumann's "Papillon" and a Chopin selection. Miss Hawkins was a most efficient accompanist. Mr. Wolstenholme was at the organ.

At his Organ Recital in the Armitage Hall on Friday, February 6th, Mr. Hollins provided an attractive programme. Special mention must be made of his rendering of his own delightful "Berceuse" and his Polonaise for the piano and organ.

○○○○

**COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE
BLIND.**

THE next examination of the College will be held on the 18th, 19th (and possibly 20th) May, 1920. Applications for the examination must be in the hands of the Hon. Registrar not later than 25th March. Forms of application and syllabus can be obtained from the Hon. Registrar, 224, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

○○○○

YOU can give no better present to your blind friend than a year's subscription to *Progress* and the *Braille Mail*. This will only cost you 12s. 6d., and will give your friend a great joy in his or her life.

ORGAN—
 Pieces in Diverse Styles. Book 1 *J. A. Meale*

FOUR-PART SONG—
The Sunny Hour *H. Smart*

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—No. 40.

APRIL, 1920.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.



MARCH 12th, 1920, will always stand out as an important date for the Blind Community, for on that day the Bill for the Education, Employment and Maintenance of the Blind was read a second time. It will also be memorable for the delivery of a speech by Mr. Ben Tillett in the House of Commons, which we propose to reprint here in full from the official Parliamentary Report.

Mr. Tillett began by setting forth the object of the Bill, which is:—

"to provide for the technical education of the blind by the establishment and equipment of technical schools where necessary, or by contributions to existing schools and institutions for the employment of the blind by the establishment and equipment of workshops where necessary; or by contributions to existing institutions providing work for the blind; for grants in respect of augmentation of wages earned by persons so employed; for the provision of the expenses of blind persons at institutions or hostels while under technical instruction; for the employment and maintenance of blind persons away from workshops and for the maintenance of blind persons incapacitated from earning their livelihood."

"That comprehensive memorandum," said Mr. Tillett, "indicates what we desire. We do not desire to go beyond that, nor do we lessen in our desire to accept any compromise less than that. I owe an explanation or an apology to the House, inasmuch as the Bill is backed purely from a Labour standpoint. I desire to assure the House that I want the help of every Member of every party and section. It would be presumption and the most insolent form of arrogance if the Labour party assumed that it was the only defender of the blind. God has not limited this affliction to

our class. Whether He had done so or not it would be the duty of all classes to see to it that the blind were not handicapped by a want of interest. I hope that there will be no debauch of maudlin sentiment, but I feel sure that every Member of the House feels profoundly in the depths of his heart a great pity and charity for those who are afflicted by the disease or defect of blindness. I am going to take them into my confidence. I feel perplexed because I know everyone will be in sympathy. In my own experience of life, where we have had universal sympathy we have had the least support. I do not want, when we meet the Treasury, as we must meet the Treasury, to feel that my heart is sinking, nor do I want the Treasury to be the dead end of our last hope. I do want them to appreciate that the realm of the blind is the kingdom of poverty. So at once I throw myself frankly on the goodwill of the House. If there should be any Members here who think that we should have consulted them and placed their names on the back of the Bill, please do not blame the Labour party, but blame me. I take my full share of responsibility for that. Because I do that, I ask this House to consider the facts as they are. There are some 30,000 dependent blind persons. Out of this total of 30,000 there are 10,000 supported by Poor Law agency, there are 7,000 more or less industrially employed, and 2,000 directly industrially employed. We must accept the fact that their normal efficiency would be anything between 35 and 50 per cent. of the efficiency of the normal person, and that their efficiency depends not only on their own aptitude but also upon any technical instruction

they receive. This Bill is not a Bill to pauperise; it is a Bill to give efficiency, to provide machinery, to give technical instruction and to give a great hope to the blind.

"God's greatest gift is eyesight, and those of us denied that great privilege live in darkness everlasting. We cannot create eyesight like the Nazarene, but we can, at least, do something to inspire the blind in their work, and of all the great blessings we can offer to them it is to give them occupation. I have often thought if Milton had not written his great classic poem he would have lived in a purgatory of regret. We have gained because of the expression of his power assisted by his daughters. He was able to employ his mind and to give to us that poem which will be a classic as long as the English language lives. I want to give to the blind who cannot reach that level at least the very best chance possible. I do not claim for the Bill that it will be the inauguration of a new era, but it will be the creation of a better understanding of what blindness means generally and to the individual. It will give us a chance of appreciating that 40 per cent. of blindness occurs after the age of thirty-five. If the report on a C3 nation had been analysed in minute particulars, the nation would realise that semi-blindness or impaired sight constitutes a very grave danger to the community, and that in the period of the War defective eyesight was one of the most prominent among the defects. If this measure only gives us a scientific and natural sense of the meaning of blindness or semi-blindness, then it will not have failed in placing on the Statute Book a constructive capacity for organisation which will deal with the preventive, curative, and remedial side. I ask the House to regard this measure not as imposing financial obligations, but as a humane measure that may mean to us much more than pounds, shillings and pence can express. In the report of the Commission on Venereal Diseases we have disclosed a very tragic and serious condition of things. Maternal gonorrhœa, if not promptly treated, causes as much as 25 per cent. of blindness. That is an indictment of the community itself. I am not here to indulge in any criticism that will contain any sort of cynicism. I want to thank the Government for what it has done, and to thank the Minister of Health and pay my personal tribute to his work. As to the

voluntary institutions, St. Dunstan's and the old-established bodies, God only knows what would have happened if there had not been heart and soul among the people to undertake this work, but even with that we have done very little for the blind. We owe our thanks to those people who have done their share. I desire to relieve the blind from the necessity of depending upon the voluntary associations and the charity of the generous. Probably the generous of our own nation have been exploited beyond those of any other nation. I would not ask for State assistance if I felt we could do without it, and I think that we have not been grateful enough to those who have rendered splendid service when the State has forgotten its duty. The State is alive to its finger tips to the four corners of the earth should danger come, but I do not want the House to pass by with the mere belief that 30,000 necessitous persons represent the whole case as to defective sight. If a thorough investigation were made, and if school clinics were appreciated, as I believe they will be appreciated better in the future, it will not be a case of 30,000, but of thousands or even millions affected more or less by defective eyesight. You must begin with the mother. How many poor little bairns have suffered a lifetime of darkness and torture through the incompetence and neglect or ignorance of a nurse or mother. Compulsory registration is a necessity not merely to save the State, but to save the women, for I know of no greater purgatory than that of the mother who croons over a blind bairn when she herself has been responsible for that child.

"If only to relieve matters, and to go back to what the defects of sight mean, then this measure will be of great benefit to us all. The Bill in itself does not eliminate any single voluntary institution, it does not cut across any form of voluntary aid, it does not impinge upon any vested institution. No voluntary agency has a right to adopt a dog in the manger policy towards this Bill. Ever since the country itself has assumed a fair share of responsibility our voluntary associations have gone ahead in their usefulness. It does allow the State itself, under the Health Ministry, to formulate and to create machinery; it does allow any municipal authority either directly or in co-operation with other municipal authorities to act as a responsible body. The language of the Bill is couched in the simplest possible

terms, and it is not technical to any degree or legal in its formula in any manner, but it does give this protection to the blind and protection to the State itself. It asks of those who accept the assistance of the State the controlling supervisory right of a National Advisory Committee. The voluntary institutions cannot have their cake and eat it. If they accept State assistance, and I am sure they will, they will be assisted by the State, and the State Department, I feel positive, will render not merely a magnificent service, but will contribute to prevent a repetition of the examples which were expressed during the war. I do not think any Member of this House will say I am a Little Britisher. I believe in my own country to the very depths of my soul as being the best country on God's earth, but in this war our Colonial troops and the American troops showed a direct expression of the special benefit of the care of the young in the matter of sight and the general senses. It shocked me to think that by comparison we were very far behind our own Colonial troops and the American troops.

"I am not thinking only of war. Damn war, and all those who make it. But I am thinking of health, and life, and efficiency, and I do not want a period of war to be the only period when we sit up and take notice. Physical deterioration should be a thing of grave concern to all of us at any period. It is not merely to the benefit of the individual that he or she may be healthy, it is of benefit to the whole country, and, after all, healthy brains are most healthy in healthy bodies. I am not pleading for pity at all. I do not wish any Member of this House to express the slightest quiver of sympathy unless he or she will be helping us in this measure. I want the technical instruction schools to be a feature of our administration of the blind institutions. I want us to see clinically. I want the doctor to come to our help, and I want the doctor even to be asked how much mal-nutrition is responsible for bad sight or the weakening of either of the senses. I want that sort of institution set up that can be scientific, and while we may be proud of the stamina of our countrymen in fighting, I believe the greatest test will be applied in the near future of what will be our stamina in the industrial, international fights of the world for not merely supremacy, but for existence. We are going to build up a nation of healthy human beings.

"I do not want to occupy too much of the attention of this House, but I do want us to realise that glorious gift of sight. The eye is the greatest optical instrument ever invented, invented by a great Creator, invented by the power of the universe, the eye—for there was light long before sight—the eye's retina, that may take in the glorious expanse of sea, of mountain, or of sky, may look closely into the molecule or the cell, may direct itself to the point of a pin, may be the skilled craftsman, may be the skilled lace-maker, may be the woman or man at the machine, may be those manipulating a great microscope or a great telescope, whatever the colours of earth and sky and sea may be, the great power of sight is a blessing. We cannot imagine the loss of the power of sight when one remembers a sunrise or a sunset. One cannot live without misgivings if one had to lose the vision of a great sky in cloud or storm or sunshine, and all the glorious colours. One cannot think without great doubt and without great sorrow that one should miss their way to the great light of day, with the stars, with the sun, with the moon, with lights and shades of a sun on a harvest field, with all that comes to our glorious vision with the sight God created. That is one great side of the question that we must consider. When one considers that that is denied to our brethren and our sisters, that they must work for ever in the prison of eternal night, that they must go on for ever without seeing as we see, let us use our good eyes for them, let us stretch out our arms in their darkness and support them, let us try to be brothers and sisters to them. What God and nature and accident and defect have denied them, let us try and make it up in our human sympathy, in our practical human sympathy.

"I am perplexed and worried that there may be too much maudlin sentiment. I want real sympathy, that the blind of our community shall be honoured by it, that the State will come to our assistance, and that a great humanity will fill the souls of those responsible in great State Departments, that if the blind may not see with their eyes we shall put eyes into their finger ends. If they may not see with their eyes, let us give to their other organs a greater sense, and, realising that great miracle of the sense of sight, try to make up for the great loss, for, however cynical a man's nature may be, of all the curses that could come to him, his

great fear would be blindness. May that fear be an appalling sense of responsibility. In uttering these words I leave to the practical good will of the House this Bill, hoping that it may receive not merely their consideration, but their support, so that we may start an era of great good."

This is a stirring and an epoch-making speech. All of us who are working wholeheartedly for the betterment of conditions amongst those of our fellow mortals struggling against their great handicap will endorse every word of Mr. Tillet's speech.

On another page we give resumés of the speeches made by Mr. Stephen Walsh and Dr. Addison, Minister of Health.

The whole of the information in connection with the Debate was prepared and supplied by Mr. Ben Purse, to whom we offer our hearty congratulations. But for Mr. Purse's work, which must have involved an enormous amount of labour, the procedure could not in our judgment have been along such convincing lines as it was.

OOOO

"Out of the hands of pain and suffering more gifts have come to men than from any other source."

J. M. Blake.

FLYING TO MUSIC.

SOUND means music to the clever boy musicians, the blind twin brothers, Frank and Victor Auckland. Just lately they had an invitation to go up in a machine placed at their disposal by the Handley Page Aircraft

Company at Cricklewood. The boys will doubtless reproduce what they characterise as "the musical sensations" of an aeroplane flight upon the responsive keyboard of their piano. For they "saw" and felt all the wonders of aerodrome, air and motion *in sound*, that being their way of enjoying life. They flew, they said, "in the key of C"; and they listened to the noise of the 350 h.p. engines, felt the rising of the 'plane from the ground, and clapped their hands when suddenly lifted through the air.

They are just fourteen years old, these poet-pianists. Since early last au-

tumn they have been touring the music halls, and their gifted fingers have made the piano bring many new delights to the crowds listening to them. "And *this*," said one of the boys, his handsome face lit up with enjoyment, as he stepped out of the 'plane on coming to earth again, "this means a thrilling new repertory!"

S. B. P.



[Copyright Newspaper Illustrations, Ltd.]

BLIND TWINS' FLIGHT IN "C."

The blind twin brothers Auckland, of Finsbury Park, who are clever musicians, flew over London to test the "key" of an airplane. They said they flew in "C." "Looking" at the 'plane by touch.

A TONSORIAL TRAGEDY

(By "Sugar.")



FEELING rather stupid and lazy on this particular morning, I decided to permit myself to be robbed of fifteen cents by the barber, and so save myself the trouble of shaving. So, donning my hat and coat, I stepped cheerfully out of the house and into the street, where my troubles were to begin. During the night there had been a light fall of snow, just enough to make the walking rather more heavy than usual, and covering the curbs sufficiently to make them rather difficult to find.

I had not gone very far when I was brought to an abrupt halt. The sidewalk was undergoing repairs, and a barrier had been erected to prevent trespassers on that particular spot, so I stepped from the pavement and steered out around. When I judged myself well past the torn-up portion I again turned toward the pavement. The fresh snow prevented me from knowing when I had again reached the sidewalk—and I passed right over it, and on into the back yard of a grocer's shop. After wandering about here among and over boxes and barrels, I found my way back to the walk. Believing all to be clear now, I started off at a smart pace, and ran slap into another barrier. It seems that a space had been left for the grocer's team to pass through, and of course I found it.

A little further on I came to where I knew a building was being repaired, which made it necessary to have a staging erected over the sidewalk, and hearing the men at work, I once again stepped from the pavement to prevent any chance of an accident. I turned back again when I knew myself to be safe, and ran bang into a man standing there. I apologised, he stepped back, and I went on. Two steps, and bang again into another chap. He staggered back muttering something, which, although I could not hear clearly what it was, I did not stay to request him to repeat. These men were interested

in the work being done on the building, and had been gazing up at the progress which was being made. I hurried on rather more briskly, hoping that I might soon be out of earshot, when after a very few strides I stepped fairly on what must have been a very tender portion of a dog's anatomy. He gave vent to one awful ki-i-i-i, which so startled me that I gave one grand leap, hoping to clear the teeth which I felt sure were about to close on the rear portion of my unprotected body. In place of being caught from the rear, my foot caught in a step that just here jutted out over the walk, and I sprawled headlong. I could hear the dog yelping pitifully as he rushed off in the opposite direction, so I did not hurry about rising. When I did struggle to my feet, I dusted myself carefully, straightened my neck-tie, and after making quite certain that no bones were broken, resumed my journey.

I now discovered that the snow had been trampled down just here, forming a path in the centre of the walk with room enough for only one person to walk. The snow had begun to form balls on my boots by this time, and as I was turning a corner I stepped on the rounded side of the path, slipped, staggered, tried to recover my balance, but all in vain, and I found myself falling forward, so rushed headlong, moving faster each second, but was unable to check myself until my head came in contact with something soft and yielding that uttered agonising shrieks as it went down before me. The obstacle I had met with happened to be a dear old lady (rather inclined to corpulence) out on her morning's marketing tour. While I lay there gasping for breath, the "shopping" came raining down on me with such force that I felt convinced the lady had not been prepared for my advent, and in her surprise had flung her arms wide and her parcels high. When I had recovered sufficient breath I attempted an apology by explaining that I was blind. "And blind it is, ye are," remarks the good dame. "Shure and a body

don't need more nor two eyes to see that ! A cryin' shame I calls it, and this a prohibition town. Things is come to a terrible pass when a respectable lady can't go out for a morning's shopping without being set on, insulted, and hauled about the streets by lazy, drunken dudes, and as soon as I can get to my poor old feet I'm a-going to go to that there policeman and tell him to arrest ye. Ye won't get very far, the cop 'll know ye by the bag o' good flour that burst and fell over ye, when it fell on yer most prominent part."

By this time I had managed to get the brim of my hat up off the tops of my ears, and realising that nothing was to be gained by attempting an explanation to the lady while she was in her present mood, I stepped around and passed her, and into a drug store a few yards further on. I was well enough acquainted with the clerk to ask him to brush some of the groceries from my clothing, and to help straighten me out. I then related my troubles to him, and asked him to peep out and see if the coast was clear of my lady friend, as I was rather diffident about placing myself within her range of vision so soon after getting safely from her threats of a speedy vengeance. The clerk explained that a lady with her hat over one eye and a string of sausages gripped firmly in one hand was at that moment talking in a rather excited manner to a police sergeant just outside the door of the shop. Seeing that there was no help for it, I plucked up my courage and advanced to the door, my intention being to see the sergeant, explain my part in the mix-up, and again apologise to the much-tried female. There are two steps leading from the door of the store to the walk. These were covered with well packed snow, and there being still two balls of the same on my boots, when I stepped on the edge of the top step just one thing could happen, and happen it did with a vengeance. My feet flew out and struck the police sergeant just above the ankles. He shot forward as if he had been thrown from a catapult, landing full in the arms of our fair friend, and we all came to the earth in a heap.

The first thing to break the silence was a male voice lisping out: "Whereth my teeth?" in frantic tones of appeal. Then a female voice replied: "There's yer dirty china all ~~wrapped~~ wrapped up in the sausage me husband has to eat for his dinner. Ah, Sergeant, and

its that murdering, drunken sot again, the one I was jist a-telling ye of, as tried to kill me a few minutes back. Arrest him immegiate. Shure an it's no trouble fer ye to see his condition if ye'll take one look at him."

I waited for no more, but got to my feet, and while the sergeant was collecting his teeth, hat, the dinner for my lady's husband, assisting her to her feet, and consoling her, I beat a hasty retreat in the direction of the barber's shop, which luckily was only a few doors further on. I opened the door and hurriedly passed inside.

Both barbers were occupied, one cutting a man's hair, and the second holding the head of another over a basin half filled with water, and washing from his hair the soap with which he had been shampooing him. An old gentleman who was waiting his turn for a shave was seated in a chair at one side, balancing himself neatly as he tilted backwards, and quietly reading his morning paper.

In my haste at getting out of the policeman's sight before he could recall the cause of his misfortune, I rushed into the shop and planked my foot squarely on the tail of the pet cat. With one heart-rending meow-w-o-e-o-w he went straight up into the air, and came down on the red-hot top of the stove he had been lying in front of. He did not stay there long, but with another shriek leaped again, and this time hit fairly on the bald head of the old gentleman who was so gracefully tilted backwards in the chair. He went over with a crash and a roar. The man in the chair, who was having his hair fussed up, also shrieked, for the barber, being startled, had dug deep with the clippers, removing the skin and two or three hundred hairs from the top of his client's head. A great spluttering came from the rear where the basin was situated, and the individual who was being shampooed came up spluttering and spitting from the bottom of the basin, where he had been thrust by his knight of the soap and razors.

After listening for a few seconds to the uproar my entrance had created, I decided it best not to linger, so turned and made for the door. I found it—with my head, and went half through the glass that ornamented its upper part. Breaking loose from this mess, and finding the handle of the door, I drove out into the street, my hat once more over my ears.

I turned up a side street and slunk along, picking glass from the more exposed part of my head and shoulders.

I now decided I had better return home, and started off, praying that I might not meet any of my newly-made acquaintances. The street leading to my home is rather steeply inclined. The snow was by this time well packed, and the youngsters were out in numbers, taking advantage of their opportunities to enjoy what is to them the prince of winter sports, sliding down hill.

I was walking quietly toward home up the hill, congratulating myself on getting so far safely, when suddenly my feet were swept from under me, and I sat down rapidly and very hard on the back of a small boy, who was stretched out full length on a sled, going pell-mell down hill. Naturally I went with him from that point, balancing myself as best I could, riding backwards, legs in the air and arms waving wildly. As may be supposed, we did not go very far, but all pitched off into the ditch, where we rolled over and over, sled, boy and myself, all mixed up together. I finally managed to check my speed, and got to my feet. The boy at the same time recovered sufficient breath to utter one unearthly howl, and put off down the street as fast as his legs could carry him. I made no attempt to stop him, but felt very much relieved to know that a boy who had felt so soft and squashy was still alive and able to run.

I made the remainder of my journey home safely, and without further mishap retired to my room, and, sadly drawing forth my razor, proceeded to shave myself.

OOOO

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS NURSE (to mother of a ten-year old boy, who tests at the one-sixth normal vision): "Haven't you had his eyes tested for glasses?"

MOTHER: "He has glasses, but they are broken."

NURSE: "You shouldn't let him go without them."

MOTHER: "He is always fighting and breaking them, and I can't afford to get new ones."

NURSE (to boy): "If you really must fight, take off your glasses and let your brother hold them for you."

BOY: "But I couldn't see to fight without them."

THE CARNEGIE UNITED KINGDOM TRUST

BY the passing of the Public Libraries Act, 1919, the whole position of libraries in England and Wales was altered. The report of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust for the year ending December 31, 1919, gives the provisions of the Act briefly as follows:

1. The County Council becomes a Library Authority, with powers to create by resolution library areas covering all or part of the county and to raise rates necessary for up-keep.

2. The penny rate limitation is abolished.

The Trust Committee, while admitting that it is impossible as yet to foresee the effect of this Act, point out that two fundamental points have been gained, namely, (1) that towns in England and Wales where the maintenance of library schemes was impracticable owing to the small produce of the penny rate are now free to give effect to library proposals, provided the ratepayers will consent to the necessary rate; and (2) that the library schemes in English and Welsh counties are no longer rendered precarious by the doubt as to the competence of Education Authorities to provide books for adult readers.

The Committee state that the Trust's schemes have been greatly handicapped by the increased cost of building, and they point out the necessity for an extended policy of marking time. They report an increasing demand for good literature in country districts, as evidenced by the enthusiastic reception given to the rural library schemes.

Preliminary arrangements for the Central Institute in London, included in the Trust's programme in connection with the physical welfare of mothers and children, are proceeding satisfactorily, and sites for welfare centres have been acquired at Birmingham, Liverpool, Motherwell and Shoreditch.

Among the many grants paid or partly paid in fulfilment of promises made by the Trustees are £5,000 to the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, £275 10s. to the National Institute for the Blind for printing of books, £7,500 to the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, and £221 10s. to the National Library for the Blind for the production of Catalogue.

HOSPITAL-SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

(ATTACHED TO THE ST. MARIA VIKTORIA HOSPITAL, BERLIN.)



WE have received a lengthy report of the activities undertaken by a hospital-school for the blind in Berlin. The report covers a period of three years, from November, 1914, to November, 1917, and a short account may be of interest to English readers as affording a comparison of work undertaken for the blind in Germany and in England. The account starts with a lengthy dissertation as to the exact meaning of the word "blind," arriving at the conclusion that up to the present no generally accepted definition of the word exists. It proceeds to a consideration of the injuries which were the causes of the different cases of blindness, and reports that up to November, 1917, 2,080 cases of war blindness in all were notified, and that this number was daily being augmented.

Of the 250 patients in this hospital during the period covered by the report, 218 were blinded by injuries and internal diseases of the eye.

A course of lessons was started by the hospital-school on November 22nd, 1914. There were five pupils, and instruction was at first confined to writing for the blind. By Christmas one of the pupils could already read and write in embossed type. Typewriting lessons were soon started, the Blickensderfer typewriter being the first to be used. Later on other makes were introduced. War-blinded men were sent from other hospitals and provinces, and it became necessary to devise a definite plan of instruction.

"The first thing we put into the hands of our war-blinded men," says the report, "is a simple board for ordinary writing. We employ an ordinary cardboard slab fitted with a lid cut out in the form of a grating, in the grooves of which the blind man can write in his ordinary handwriting with a lead pencil. Immediately on admission to the hospital each pupil is presented with a watch

for the blind, which is provided with stout hands and a dial having raised figures or dots. The watch is put to constant use, whereas the board, when replaced by a typewriter, naturally loses its value. Courses of lessons take place twice, four times, or six times weekly, according to the state of health of the men. Dot writing is learnt on a board.

"The following were presented to our proteges during the three years under review:—250 watches, 220 writing-boards, 220 metal writing-boards, 53 flat-type machines, 137 typewriters, two of which were for the use of one-armed men; 57 shorthand-machines, ten atlases, various maps, war maps and other means of study for the blind; 200 complete script primers, 70 shorthand-primers, books, music, three upright pianos, one grand piano, violins, zithers, accordions, gramophones, lutes, 175 packs of playing-cards, draughts, dice boxes, twelve sets of chess, a few games of dominoes, etc.

"Far more difficult than the problem of tuition was the question of professions and trades for the blind men. Many were discouraged at the thought of giving up their former calling and undergoing a new apprenticeship. The idea was conceived of employing some of the blinded men at munition factories, and in September, 1915, the first five men were initiated in the work. The result was completely satisfactory, and thirty men were very soon employed. Soon afterwards other Government offices and big private industries also opened their doors to the men. The class of work to which the blind are at first put in factories is that of testing parts of projectiles by gauges, packing cartridges into munition-belts and cases, packing star lights into cases, and many similar operations. Machine work is then extended as follows:—Putting screws into metal parts, extending the diameter of cartridge cases, removing seams from parts of fuses, work on horizontal thread-cutting machines, on boring machines, punching

machines, friction presses, lathe-work, etc. Other kinds of factory-work are now performed by the blind in Germany. Some work in cigar and cigarette factories. After four to six weeks a fairly good wage (up to twenty-five marks per week) can be earned. The danger of injury to blind persons from machinery is obviated as far as possible by providing guards and other protections of various kinds. After two years' experience the factory managers report that the blind perform their work as accurately, as rapidly and as perfectly as do their sighted fellow-workers.

"Among the war-blinded were a number of educated men—officers, teachers, officials, students and merchants—for whom it was a far more difficult task to provide occupations. After training, some of these men were able to resume their old callings. The institution has trained thirty-six typists and secretaries, and thirty of these have obtained employment in Government and municipal offices as well as in private business houses. Seven telephone operators have found employment and are proving excellent workers. Good reports are to hand concerning the three blind masseurs who were trained at this institution. The earnings of the masseur working at a military hospital were four marks per day, the masseur employed at the clinical hospital receiving forty marks per month, with board and lodging. Brush-making has been learnt for the most part by men who were too feeble for other work. They have been passed on to their own provincial schools for the blind. An Agricultural School for the Blind has been opened, the aim and object of which is to train the blind man in such farm work as will enable him to earn an independent livelihood with the aid of his wife. This branch of the work is going very well indeed, and a great deal of assistance has been received from the War Office.

"The 250 patients who have been or are still in training at this institution have adopted the following callings:—One doctor, two lawyers, one mining engineer, eight students, four musicians, one post office official, two teachers, six merchants, thirty-six typists, seven telephone-operators, three masseurs, one butcher, one baker, three harness-makers, one shoemaker, two cigar workers, five cigarette-workers, eighty-eight factory hands, eight brush-makers, four basket-makers, two chair-caners and thirty-three farmers."

FIRE AT ST. DUNSTAN'S

A FIRE broke out early on the morning of the 26th in the College Annexe of St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, in Regent's Park, N.W. It was discovered soon after midnight by one of the sisters.

The fire brigade was called, but the flames had already obtained a dangerous hold and were bursting through the windows and lighting up the sky.

The V.A.D. sisters of St. Dunstan's, all voluntary workers, led the blind men, about 150 in number, from the wards. The sisters showed great coolness and the discipline of the men was admirable. There were no casualties.

After about half an hour's work the firemen succeeded in putting out the flames, but considerable damage was done.

The fire took place in the main part of the College Annexe, which is about 400 yards from St. Dunstan's itself. The building was an old one, standing in beautiful grounds.

The Annexe was about to be vacated by St. Dunstan's, after a three years' occupation, and a farewell concert had been held on Wednesday night.

O O O O

THE St. Cecilia Play Centre and Recreative Guild has been formed under the auspices of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society as a play centre for blind children and guild for blind young persons, in order to offer all the healthy interests and recreation and comfort of a "club" to those who would otherwise be denied such advantages. For this purpose it has been possible to secure the use of the comfortable rooms of the Workers' Educational Association, 377, Oxford Road, for meetings three times a week. The time will be spent in singing, dancing, reading, acting, games, and other suitable recreations. It is also hoped to arouse interest in the "Scout" and "Guide" movements and citizenship duties. Every effort will be made to secure bright and cheery meetings. A paid Superintendent will be appointed, otherwise all the work will be voluntary.

PROVISION FOR THE BLIND

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND MAINTENANCE BILL.



OUR Editorial this month is concerned with Mr. Tillett's speech on March 12th in the House of Commons at the second reading of the Education, Employment and Maintenance Bill for the Blind. In seconding the motion, Mr. Stephen Walsh said that while the Bill would not traverse the useful work done by many admirable institutions which now dealt with the education, employment, and maintenance of the blind, there were other organisations, masquerading as charitable, which simply exploited the sympathies of the public and the necessities of the blind at the same time. These organisations, under the operation of the Bill, would be swept away. The root principle which it was sought to establish was the definite State and civic responsibility of all people to the helpless blind. They had realised that there was no individual, however humble, who, when left untended and unguarded, would not react injuriously on the fortunes of the whole community, and to-day there was a deeper and nobler sense of civic responsibility than ever before. He knew the admirable work done by the Ministry of Health, which had shown an ever-increasing sense of responsibility for the public well-being, and he hoped that it would not regard the Bill as in any way reflecting on the magnificent work which it was doing. The supporters of the measure were anxious that all people should recognise that the whole community was responsible in this matter.

Dr. Addison, as representing the Government attitude, said:—"The hon. member who moved the second reading stated, in eloquent and graphic terms, the disabilities and misfortunes of the blind. I was comforted, however, by what he said and what other hon. members acquainted with this subject said as to Government action. Those hon. members gave the Government and the Ministry of Health credit for having really

done something material in this matter. In this connection it would not be fair if I were to omit a reference to the very valuable work which my friend the member for Ince (Mr. S. Walsh) has performed on this subject. It was largely in consequence of the practical recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Blind that we have taken very considerable practical action during recent years. Before I come to the proposals of the Bill it may not be inappropriate if I ask the House to look at the subject as a whole, so that we may not simply content ourselves with dealing with ill effects, but consider a proper and comprehensive policy with a view to removing the causes which, to an unusual degree, happen to be preventable. I find, as the hon. member (Mr. Tillett) stated, that a very large proportion of the blindness in the London County Council schools and allied schools, and amongst the general population, is due to a certain preventable condition. That preventable condition is venereal disease in one or other of its forms. Twenty-one per cent., for instance, of the blind are blind within six months from birth, and that blindness is almost all due to the condition to which my hon. friend referred, and which is removable. That is one of the reasons for the expenditure which the House voted the other night by which we are giving increased assistance and providing better training for nurses, midwives, and so on, to attend to the newly-born child, and it is another justification for that class of expenditure because it is no exaggeration to say in the case of those blind within six months of birth nearly all could have been prevented. This has to be linked up with other sources. It will be futile for the House simply to provide remedies for ill effects without at the same time securing a proper policy directed to remove the causes. There are other causes similarly preventable, and next in importance are those cases relating to industrial accidents. Nothing surprised me more in examining the reports of the

Advisory Committee and others than the scrappy nature of our information on this subject. We have a few efficient institutions here and there, such as the County Council schools for blind children and the Blind Asylum, but in the main our knowledge is of the scrappiest kind.

"I am not at all satisfied, although we are developing in our policy on this subject and with regard to the operation of venereal diseases, that we have yet covered ground. Therefore I shall adopt the suggestion made by the Mover that we should have a comprehensive inquiry into the causes and prevention of blindness of a scientific character, and I propose to set one up. I shall consult with my hon. friends in the House on the matter at an early date. Some of the ground has been covered already, though not, perhaps, in the form suggested in this Bill. An hon. member pointed out that we were already giving £20,000 for blind persons in workshops, and by that, he said, we are providing for the efficient training of, say, 2,500 persons. This question relates to about 30,000 people. It would appear, as far as we can tell, that of that number from 12,000 to 15,000 are unemployable in the main because there is no provision made to train them, so that the next step is to provide that necessary training. The Board of Education, as the House knows, requires that local authorities should provide training and facilities for education and so on, suitable for blind children, and the Board of Education is proposing also to extend that form of training assistance by giving assistance to properly considered schemes put up by institutions now aided by voluntary organisations as well as by public authorities, to some of which my hon. friend paid a high and quite deserved tribute. Some of these organisations have acquired a wealth of experience and have managed very well, and the Board of Education proposes to assist them under suitable conditions to improve their training facilities. I agree with the supporters of the Bill that this is not enough, and before I pass from that subject I want to mention one proposal which the Government will wish to see embodied in any legislation adopted by this House, and that is this. There is a serious danger, I find, gathering from the report of the Advisory Committee, that a number of bodies appealing for subscriptions for the blind should not make as good a use as we should like of the subscriptions obtained, and whilst the

promoters of the Bill recognise that we cannot afford to do anything but give the best help possible to those experienced and thoroughly trustworthy agencies which have given a vast deal of voluntary assistance to the blind, we must take care that the interests of the blind and the sympathies of the public are not exploited by those agencies which are not worthy of support.

"Therefore, we shall propose as a part of this Bill that we shall have power to require the registration of agencies appealing for support of a voluntary character for the blind, and no doubt they could be registered in an appropriate manner, into which I need not now go, which would not involve any supervision in the obnoxious sense. It is essential that the workshop accommodation for training should be extended, not only in respect of elementary training but of technical training of various kinds, and therefore the Government are prepared to support proposals whereby county councils, county borough councils and possibly other bodies may be authorised to provide and maintain or to contribute towards the provision and maintenance of workshops, hostels, homes, and other places for the reception of the blind. We are prepared to see that that is embodied in any legislation, and it goes a very long way to cover the proposals of this Bill. Also it is clear that that will necessitate some assistance to the capital provision of the necessary workshops. If the House will bear in mind the figures I gave, of 30,000 unemployable, of which a large number are children and aged persons—and I am glad to say that blindness among children is diminishing—they will see that the problem is not of such a magnitude from the point of view of numbers that it would be reasonable and economical to expect that in every area every authority should set up a separate organisation or workshop for the blind. It would be a wasted effort, and while I join issue with the movers of the Bill on that point, one point which I welcome in the Bill is that it provides that authorities may join together in the provision of such accommodation. But it is clear that the number of teachers to give training is very limited, and we shall find in this, as in almost everything else, that the lack of suitable competent persons to run them is the limiting factor. Therefore any appropriate scheme should provide for a relatively small number of shops and an inadequate staff. Also it is

proposed that we should have a grant in aid, and that it should be 50 per cent. of the contribution.

"In regard to the problem of preventing the able-bodied blind becoming unemployable, that must be done by the proper provision of a sufficient number of places and workshops, or the support of those properly administered now, with the possibility of extension, but it is not a problem which requires the establishment of this kind of organisation everywhere. We only need them in a sufficient number of selected centres. This is the most difficult side of it, and that is the persons who are blind and who really have got past the age at which they can be trained or taught how to support themselves, and they are, of course, in large numbers at the present time in workhouses. But I am very anxious that we should not reform our Poor Law piecemeal by setting up in anticipation a number of hostels which would have to be scrapped afterwards, and we have been engaged, as the House knows, in accordance with the pledges given by the Government, on working at the necessary legislation on this gigantic subject for some time past. You cannot lightly introduce proposals relating to the complicated issues arising out of the reform of the Poor Laws. Therefore I do not want to set up everywhere these county committees and so forth, as suggested here, for giving assistance to the indigent and unemployable blind. That would really be setting up a scheme, which I do not want to anticipate in view of the reforms we have to make for dealing with the Poor Law as a whole. It would be a great pity to deal piecemeal with reform. Consequently I am suggesting, for the interim arrangement, to make use of certain machinery we have already got.

"After going into the matter quite carefully, it appeared to me that blind persons after the age of fifty cannot be taught anything. We propose, therefore, to take a special form of relief at the age of fifty for those who are blind and not able to support themselves according to the definition. We propose to use the same machinery that we have got now with regard to the administration of Old Age Pensions, and we propose that any blind person between the ages of fifty and seventy, subject to the same disqualification as to income and so forth, shall receive the same benefits and weekly allowances as old age pensioners get.

That would mean that all these people would be able to receive 10s. a week, or whatever it is which they would be entitled to receive under the old age pension scale, with the same disqualifications as apply to the Old Age Pension. That would really meet straightaway the case of about 46 per cent. of the blind who are indigent and who are too old to be taught anything. We must rely mainly on the development of the workshops and training places to teach people to earn money for themselves. I think the promoters of the Bill will see that the Government have given very careful consideration to this matter. We want to meet the difficulties with them in a friendly spirit, and I therefore suggest that, while the House gives this Bill a second reading, I will consult those who are interested in this subject, and either reform this Bill, or introduce another to give effect to the proposals of the Government."

The other speakers were Mr. Sugden, Captain Craig, Mr. G. Thorne, Sir F. Banbury, Mr. Devlin, Mr. F. Roberts, Viscountess Astor, Mr. Clynes, Mr. Harold Smith, Mr. McGuffin, Sir R. Newman, Sir W. Seager, Capt. Redmond, Capt. Loseby, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Harbison, Colonel Burn, Mr. D. Irving, Brig.-Gen. Surtees, and Sir H. Cowan.

Sir Robert Newman raised the question as to the amount of pension which it was proposed to give to blind persons between the ages of fifty and seventy, and stated that he considered 10s. was inadequate for the purpose. It would certainly not enable a blind person to leave the workhouse and live in comfort out of it.

OOOO

OUR attention has been drawn to a Social Club for the Blind which was inaugurated a short time ago at Folkestone. The members of the club meet twice a week, on Monday and Thursday afternoons, and are entertained with music by a band of helpers, consisting chiefly of ladies of the town. There are now over twenty members, and the club continues to gain in popularity. Other towns would surely do well to copy this example.

OOOO

"Into the truth of things—
Out of their falseness rise, and reach thou,
and remain!"

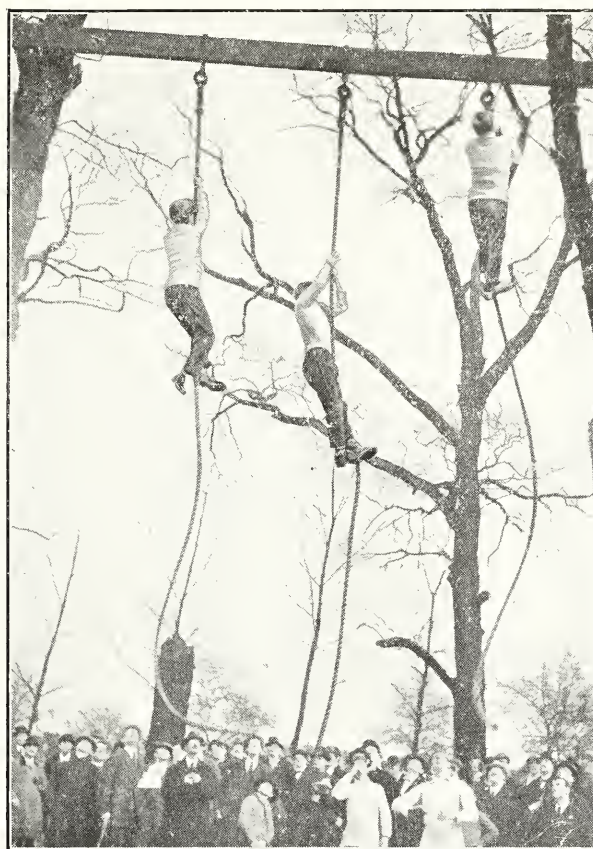
R. Browning.

BLIND ATHLETES

THE work of Sir Arthur Pearson for blinded soldiers and sailors, which restores to them their confidence and fits them to take their places as fighting units in their own country, is known to everyone. But the blind men at St. Dunstan's are not taught only how to work, but also how to play, and a really amazing exhibition of their ability to take part in the games they must have seen so often before the war was given at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, recently.

It has been known for some time that blind men could be taught to row, and indeed last summer several prizes at Thames Regattas were won by blind crews. The exhibition given on the lake in Regent's Park by two Fours was, however, amazingly good. The time kept, the rhythm and the swing of the better of the two Fours was excellent.

More amazing than the exhibition of rowing was the hundred yards race. The grass of Regent's Park is not an ideal place for a sprint track, for it is lumpy and intersected with very steep inclines and ridges. Yet the winner covered the distance in 13 2-5 secs. And he ran in boots and trousers. A thin rope is stretched along the track, on the rope is a ring, and attached to this ring is a handkerchief. The blind runner holds this handkerchief and is guided by it. It is an easier way of running for a man who is blind than for a man who can see, for the latter continually bumps into the rope—a thing which the blind man never does. The running was followed by rope climbing, at which several of the competitors were so adept that one suspected that they were once sailors. There was also a most exciting tug-of-war.



SPORTS AT ST. DUNSTAN'S
Rope-climbing Competition.

It seems impossible that blind men should be able to kick a football, but they showed that they can do so very accurately. A number of them shot numerous goals from the penalty mark against a goalkeeper whose sight was undamaged. They placed the ball themselves and felt it for a moment, and then moved back and shot hard and straight. A few days ago, Molyneux, the Chelsea goalkeeper, was beaten on eight occasions out of forty-eight by blind men who shot from the penalty mark.

In aid of St. Dunstan's Hostel a most interesting series of billiard matches is being played all over the country, and on May 17—St. Dunstan's Billiards Day—it is hoped that a match in aid of St. Dunstan's will be played on every public table in the country. Football, boxing, trotting, lawn tennis, cricket, and even special horse races, or perhaps a race meeting, will be called upon to help St. Dunstan's in the near future.

The Times.

OOOO

GRACED by the presence of the Queen, who was accompanied by Princess Mary, the royal matinée at the Palace on March 19th proved a huge success. The matinée was in aid of Sir Arthur Pearson's Blinded Soldiers' Children Fund. A fine programme included Barrie's clever play, "The Old Lady Shows Her Medals," and, if the stage did their part well, the public certainly rose to the occasion; every seat in the spacious theatre was filled. Mr. George Robey auctioned a beautiful bronze replica of the cenotaph mounted on a wooden base made from a piece of wood taken from the original temporary structure.

The Globe.

OOOO

"Do not let the burdens of to-morrow break the back of to-day."

Archbishop Hervé.

PENSIONS IN THEORY AND IN PRACTICE

SOME VIEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES.*



PENSIONS set down on paper, and pensions as a practical, working proposition have a disconcerting way of proving strangely differing things. It requires a calm and well-ordered mind to wrestle with these problems, for the attempt to be just as well as generous at one and the same time makes the wrestling brain feel much as the rope must feel during the progress of a vigorous tug-of-war.

There is much to interest us, then, in the chapters devoted to the subject of Pensions for the Blind in the book which Dr. Harry Best has brought out, telling of the work done in the United States for those who are deprived of their sight. For the most part, he points out, pensions in the United States are given for services rendered, as in the case of War veterans, industrial workers who have become incapacitated for labour, or to widowed mothers with young children; wherever, that is, the State can feel that it owes a real and distinct debt. Except in the case of blinded soldiers, it is upon a different basis from these that pensions for the blind must rest. In this instance aid is given simply as a means of relief in the way best adapted to meet the needs of an incapacitated portion of the population.

At the outset of his theoretical consideration of a pension system for the blind, Dr. Best makes some examination of the arguments against it. First of all, it is self-evident that any adequately comprehensive scheme of pensions for the blind will require a very considerable outlay of money from the tax-paying community. "If one half of the blind persons of the country over twenty

years of age," says Dr. Best, "should be given pensions at the rate of 150 dollars a year—this being the maximum sum allowed in the majority of States with pension systems—there would be expended annually for pensions for the blind in the United States a sum not less than four and one-half million dollars."

Then there is the recipient's position to be closely considered. It is felt by many who have gone into the matter that it is extremely difficult to search out those who really need most aid, and on the other hand it would appear to be fairly easy for abuse and trickery to creep into even the most wisely and carefully planned arrangements. It is, too, a serious problem to determine just what is "adequate" relief. One objection to the pension plan, as based upon concrete experience in the city of New York, is quoted as "offering a premium on residence in the city." Another general objection mentioned is that a pension system relieves the blind man's family of all sense of duty and responsibility. Again, it is quoted as "quite possible that the general tendency of the practice will all too frequently be other than desirable, with an effect on the character of the recipient far from wholesome. The incentive to rely on one's self and to make determined and continued efforts to find employment is largely removed; and there may result inertness and indolence, coupled with a complacent sense of security in being provided for at all events." Sir Arthur Pearson, it may be said here, tells a very different story of the British soldiers trained at St. Dunstan's. Each man, instead of considering his pension an incentive to "slacking," seizes eagerly the opportunity to take advantage of the training offered; he determines to better his position, he makes the manly decision to lead, not an idle life, but one useful to the community and enjoyable to himself; and thus in many instances St. Dunstan's blinded soldiers are

* Whilst disassociating ourselves from the views expressed in this article, we reproduce it here as being indicative of the American point of view on the subject of Pensions.—ED.

earning to-day more money than they were able to earn before they lost their sight.

But before giving any answers we must finish the list of objections by quoting one very often brought forward: "If pensions are to be afforded to the blind, why not to other incapacitated persons? Where shall the line be drawn, or where shall we stop once we have started?" This, of course, is a very large question, the logic of which cannot be denied. It has to be frankly faced, but, in looking into the various points and issues, decisions should be made without prejudice to the needs of the blind.

Then the taxpayer who wishes to be just and fair should take into consideration another argument. The State provides free parks, public museums and picture galleries, none of which the blind may enjoy. Might it not then be reasoned that they are entitled to some sort of compensatory benefit?

Dr. Best tells of experiments made in various States, and gives some figure totals.

"In all the public pension systems of the United States," he says, "the total amount granted is perhaps close to one million dollars. The total number of blind persons aided probably exceeds seven thousand."

Special provision is, of course, made for American soldiers blinded in the European War. "For blindness, or the loss of sight in both eyes specifically, the sum of 100 dollars a month is granted," we are told,

"to be payable through life with no other compensation. For partial disability the allowance is based on the loss of earning power (with no allowance if this loss is less than ten per cent.), as determined by average impairments in civil occupations, and not on individual impairments, so that there may be no reduction for individual success in overcoming handicaps." Permanently blinded soldiers are received in a special hospital and training institution, established at Baltimore,

where every aid possible is given to the men who day by day, in the dark, are fighting their way back courageously to the normal, useful life.

When we have read all that this American writer has to say on the difficult subject of pensions for the blind generally, we conclude that the United States view is that some sort of pension system is only equitable, and therefore imperative. But the feeling is all against any flat rates scheme. "Consideration is to be given to the family as a unit," we are told, "with re-

lief based upon its general condition, while at the same time the family is not allowed to escape its full responsibility in the matter. Care, furthermore, is to be exercised so as not to impair the morale of persons able to do work. In some instances the pension may be held out, not as complete relief, but as a nucleus to assist in the gaining of a livelihood."

S. B. P.



[London Daily Mail Copyright.]

THE KING AND QUEEN TALK TO THE BLIND BABIES AT THE IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION, OLYMPIA.

THE LADY ALGERNON PERCY

THE blind, and more especially the deaf-blind, have lost a sympathetic friend in Lady Algernon Percy, who died on February 20th, at her home at Bickham in South Devon, aged sixty.

Lady Algernon had for many years been a complete invalid, but though confined to her room and frequently suffering much pain, she planned and inspired a great deal of beneficent work. One of her clever inventions was "Letters of Hope" for teaching blind persons to read Braille with a minimum of effort and without an expert Braille teacher. This has proved the greatest boon to many persons who have become blind late in life.

Another invention of hers, carried out by her chauffeur M. Menet, was an electrical device by which a number of deaf-blind people could "hear" a reading or lecture given by a person who typed in Braille on one instrument, whilst the letters were transmitted to several instruments at some distance from the "reader" by means of an electric current, the audience keeping their fingers lightly on the receiving instruments, and feeling the Braille letters and contractions as they were tapped out by the reader. This was later simplified and adapted for the Morse code. Both these inventions were shown and attracted much notice at the last Blind Conference in London in 1914.

Lady Algernon was the eldest daughter of the late Earl of Mount Edgcumbe. She married Lord Algernon Percy in 1880 and had two children, her son, Mr. Algernon Percy, died in the war, being signalling officer of H.M.S. *Queen Mary* which was blown up with all hands in the battle of Jutland. Her daughter is Mrs. Josceline Heber Percy. Lord Algernon Percy has always assisted his wife's benevolent schemes and is Chairman of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind in Warwickshire, where his principal residence, "Guy Cliffe" is situated.

OOOO

THE next of the series of Monthly Piano Recitals given at the National Institute for the Blind, to advertise the music at the National Library for the Blind, will take place on Tuesday, April 20th, at 7.30 p.m., and all those interested are cordially invited to be present.

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

AT the seventh monthly concert, on Tuesday, April 13th, at six o'clock, the well-known soprano, Miss Mignon Nevada, has most kindly consented to sing, the other contributors to the programme being Mr. F. H. Etcheverria (baritone), Miss Muriel Rogers (violinist), with Miss Bessie Hawkins as accompanist.

MR. F. H. ETCHEVERRIA'S COMING RECITAL.—Mr. Etcheverria is giving a vocal recital at the Æolian Hall on Friday, April 16th, at 3 o'clock, when he will be assisted by the following artistes:—Miss Muriel Rogers, violinist; Mr. S. Liddle at the piano. All those reading this notice are invited to make the recital as widely known as possible.

WEST OF ENGLAND BLIND

THE annual report of the West of England Institution for the Blind, Exeter, shows that during 1919 seventy-seven blind boys and girls were educated, clothed and maintained. In addition to the usual subjects they are taught music, dancing and gymnastics. Twenty-one adults are instructed and employed in the workshops for basket and mat-making, chair-caning, stocking-knitting and type-writing. The financial result is at present fairly satisfactory.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

MUSIC.

PIANO—

Idylles Romantiques (four impressions)...*M. Lantior*
Etude on Octaves in C flat.....*H. W. Tomlinson*

CHURCH—

Be Glad, O ye Righteous (General)*H. Smart*
The Lord is my Strength (Easter)*H. Smart*

ORGAN—

Symphonic, No. 6 in G*Widor*

SONGS—

'Tis Done.....*Handel*
Heart, the seat of soft delight (Acis and Galatea)*Handel*

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—NO. 41.

MAY, 1920.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL.

LEGISLATION FOR THE BLIND: GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE.



"THIS is emphatically not one of the cases where the Government ought to refuse to spend the country's money." "The House of Commons must enlarge its ideas of economy. It would be a miserable cause that had to raid the blind man's pence, and the great national cause of economy must work on a national scale and attack the millions which are lying crying out to be picked up." (*The Times*, March 13th, 1920.)

The foregoing quotations make a full and complete answer to those critics who have urged the suspension of legislation on behalf of the blind until a definite improvement is registered in the financial status of the nation. It will be remembered that in March, 1914, when the debate took place in Parliament on a resolution moved by Mr. J. G. Wardle, Sir Frederick Banbury and others urged the course of action to which we have alluded above. These alarmist politicians told us that the nation was heading towards bankruptcy, and that we had no money to spend upon social problems such as the one then under discussion.

In August of that same year the greatest war that ever the world has known broke out and merged Europe into an expenditure of blood and money the contemplation of which staggers humanity. It is estimated that the total casualties reached 28,600,000, towards which the British Empire's dead numbered 721,500, while the total casualties of the British Empire reached the alarming

figure of 3,000,000. The cost in treasure is estimated to be a gross expenditure of £52,000,000,000. The total expenditure of the United Kingdom per day during the last pre-war year was £541,000, and the total expenditure of the United Kingdom per day during the fighting year 1918-19 was £7,067,000.

In the light of such facts it seems to us the height of absurdity for gentlemen to cavil about a much-needed social reform, which at the highest computation would not involve us in an expenditure of more than £1,800,000 per annum.

It will be generally conceded that the debate which took place in the House of Commons on the 12th March last, in respect of what is known as Mr. Tillett's Bill, was a red-letter day for the blind community. It may be that no very special achievement can be definitely assigned to that occasion, but the greatest significance attaches to the fact that the attitude of the Commons revealed to the Government that undue delay in dealing with this problem would not be countenanced by Parliament.

It is now definitely understood that the Poor Law Amendment Bill cannot be proceeded with for some time, and it was in that measure that Dr. Addison purposed dealing with the claims of the blind community. It is so far satisfactory to learn that such a course will not now be followed, but that the requirements of the blind will be met in another, and in our judgment, an infinitely better way.

The Health Minister, replying to the debate on behalf of the Government, gave the key to the present situation when he indicated that after giving a second reading to the Technical Education Employment and Maintenance of the Blind Bill, he would confer

with those responsible as to the course to be subsequently adopted, that is to say, as to whether they should proceed by amending Mr. Tillett's Bill, or introduce a Government measure. We now understand that the latter course is to be immediately followed, and that there are strong probabilities that a first reading may be taken by the time this article is in the hands of our readers.

For very specific reasons we favour such procedure, though by this statement we do not necessarily mean that we are unreservedly committed to any set of proposals the Government may feel inclined to thrust upon us. All who are anxious for the realization of immediate results will be disposed to give sympathetic consideration to any practical proposals that may be submitted, but we are entirely out of sympathy with a policy of procrastination.

Though we are not wholly apprised of the variations and amendments that will appear in the Government Bill, it is very clear to us that we are much more likely to register progress with such a measure than would be the case with a private Member's Bill. Financial support will be secured from the Treasury, and there is no reason why time cannot be taken by the Government to hurry the measure through all its preliminary stages.

We have supported Mr. Tillett's Bill, not because it was the acme of perfection, but for the good and sufficient reason that it attempted to harmonise conflicting interests and suggested a basis upon which voluntaryists and State-aiders could work side by side for the accomplishment of their respective ideals. The Government will do well to remember this, and whilst attempting to strengthen some of the provisions, they must not overlook the fundamental basis which has rendered the compromise possible.

We understand that an attempt is to be made to strengthen the provisions dealing with technical education, and this is essential if we are to leave nothing to chance. There is too great a tendency on the part of local authorities to consider trifling expenditure in this connection, whilst ignoring the great and important issues that are involved. It would be helpful if something could be done to remove the permissive character of present legislation, as indicated in Part II of the Education Act, 1902, and in the Education Act, 1918, for it seems to us just as imperative to give technical education as it is to provide the means for securing training in our primary schools.

We understand also that the Government will seek to enforce a national system of registration of Societies and Agencies for the Blind, under arrangements similar to those set forth in the War Charities Act, 1916, and this will make a most valuable addition to the Bill. It is high time that we took up a determined attitude towards those bogus organisations that are operating in various parts of the country, exploiting public sympathy and working untold injury to the blind community. It ought to be made easy to proceed against such organisations and to render it impossible for them to conduct their nefarious operations. Anything which will achieve this purpose should command universal approval.

There are minor alterations and amendments in contemplation, but perhaps the most vital change to be made is that indicated by Dr. Addison, when speaking in the House of Commons on March 12th last. The right hon. gentleman suggested that 46 per cent. of the blind would benefit under a scheme contemplated by the Ministry of Health, which sought to deal with blind persons who are incapacitate from 50 years of age, and to treat them under arrangements similar to those obtaining in respect of old age pensioners. That is to say, all blind persons who are incapacitate from 50 years onward will be entitled to an allowance or Treasury grant of 10s. per week. Where this amount is shewn to be inadequate, under the recent Old Age Pensions Amendment Act, it is competent for such a person to make application to the local authority for additional help, but here again the permissive character of such legislation gives cause for grave dissatisfaction, for in practice it will be found that many local authorities will refuse additional assistance, even though necessity is absolutely proven. Although we frankly recognise that it will be a great boon to secure the contemplated allowance, still the sum named, 10s. per week, is wholly inadequate and will do nothing to remove blind persons from Union workhouses, nor will it have any appreciable tendency to take the blind beggar from our streets.

No legislative proposals will be wholly satisfactory unless they attain this two-fold object, and it should be the business of those charged with the responsibility of drafting the new Bill to deal effectively with these matters. The additional expenditure involved would be infinitesimal, while the gain in

human happiness and contentment should outweigh all fiscal considerations.

"Then Esperance hope on,
The fight is never lost while fight we may,
And the darkest hour of all the night
Is that which brings the day."

THE MESSAGE LIBRARY

ALL blind masseurs and massage students will welcome the news that a Massage Library has recently been started by the National Institute for the Blind. This library is to be found on the ground floor of No. 37 Bolsover Street. Its librarian, Dr. Lloyd Johnstone, who is himself a blind doctor and a certificated masseur, has for many years been editing books for publication in Braille for the National Institute for the Blind. Dr. Lloyd Johnstone will also act as adviser to students and others who wish to study any particular feature of massage work.

This library has been established with the object of providing such books on Massage and allied sciences for the use of blind persons practising massage as a profession, and for blind students, as are not usually met with in the course of their professional training. The library already contains forty-eight special works, and other volumes are being added speedily. All past and present massage students at St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind may borrow them as the need arises. It is sincerely hoped that full use will be made of the advantages offered by the Massage Library. There is no subscription, and the library is open for reference purposes from 10-12.30 and 2-5. All applications should be made to J. Lloyd Johnstone, Esq., M.R.C.S., Massage Library, National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, W.1

The following is a list of the books in the Massage Library up to April:—

Aids to Medicine; by B. Hudson.
Aids to Surgery; by J. Cunning.
Anatomy; by Gray.
Part 1—Osteology.
Part 2—Syndesmology.
Part 3—Myology.
Part 4—Neurology.
Part 5—Angiology.
Part 6—Splanchnology.
Anatomy, Joints and Muscles in Tabular Form; by F. G. Brighurst.
Bandaging, Notes on the Principles and Practice of; by J. Lloyd Johnstone.
Chemistry, Modern (Theoretical); by Sir W. Ramsay.

Diagrams to Electricity and Magnetism; by C. E. Ashford.
Diagrams to Zoology; by J. F. Kerr.
Dictionary of Medical Terms; by Hoblyn.
Dynamics, Elementary Experimental; by C. E. Ashford.
Electricity, What do we know concerning; by A. Zimmern.
Electricity and Magnetism (Theoretical and Practical); by C. E. Ashford.
Fairyland of Science; by A. Buckley.
Faradism; by E. M. Magill.
Galvanism; by E. M. Magill.
Heart Cases, Some Modern Methods of Diagnosis and Treatment; by Dr. Justina Wilson.
Heat, An Elementary Text Book (Theoretical and Practical); by R. T. Glazebrook.
Heredity, in the Light of Recent Research; by L. Doncaster.
Massage in Recent Fractures; by Sir William Bennett.
Massage, Its Principles and Practice; by J. B. Mennell.
Massage, Lessons on; by Margaret D. Palmer.
Massage, Pathology and Treatment.
Massage, and the Original Swedish Movements; by Kurre W. Ostrom.
Massage, A Short History of.
Matter and Energy; by F. Soddy.
Medical Electricity, Essentials of; by E. Reginald Morton.
My System (Physical Exercises); by J. P. Muller.
Nerve Control (A Psychological Study); by H. Ernest Hunt.
Pathology, Medical and Surgical (Notes).
Physics; by Balfour Stewart.
Physiology for Beginners; by Sir M. Foster and Lewis E. Shore.
Physiology, Human; by J. Lloyd Johnstone.
Psychology, Groundwork of; by G. F. Stout.
Radium, Interpretation of; by F. Soddy.
Science from an Easy Chair; by Sir E. Ray Lancaster.
Swedish Remedial Exercises (Notes on).
Zoology; by J. F. Kerr.

Pocket Editions.

Cranial Nerves, The (from Gray's Anatomy):
Part 1—The Fifth Nerve.
Part 2—The Seventh, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Nerves.
Flat Foot, Some Considerations on the Causation and Treatment of; by W. H. Trethowan.
Gunshot Wounds of the Chest; by Cortlandt Macmahon.
Hysteria, an Address on; by A. F. Hurst.
Infantile Paralysis; by L. E. Barrington-Ward.
Massage, Notes on the Theory of; by F. G. Brighurst.
Metabolism, Lecture on; by May Thorne.
Sexes, Structure and "Extra-Organic" Habits of Certain Animals; by George Ives.
Shell Shock Stammering; by Cortlandt Macmahon.
Suggestion; by Capt. M. P. Leahy.
Treatment of Joint and Muscle Injuries, Extracts from; by W. Rowley Bristow.
Voice, Re-education of the; by Cortlandt Macmahon.
Voice Training, A Case of; by Cortlandt Macmahon.
War Injuries of the Nerves (From the Standpoint of the Masseuse or Masseuse); Major Souttar.

OOOO

"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

J. M. Barrie.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR THE TRAINING OF BLIND, ETC., STUDENTS



THE Board of Education have recently issued in the shape of a pamphlet (price 1d. net, which can be purchased from any book-seller), the "Draft Regulations for the Training of the Blind, etc., Students." In the explanatory memorandum which precedes the Statutory Rules and Orders of the Draft, the Board of Education express the belief that the time has now come when some further development should be made to secure provision of better and more extended facilities for training blind students, and, having this end in view, have decided to modify and substantially increase their grants in aid.

In August, 1919, the Ministry of Health issued Regulations under which grants are payable in aid of various activities designed to promote the welfare of the blind, which includes the aid of the blind worker who is pursuing a trade either in a special workshop or in his own home. But at the same time they lay stress on the fact that if the blind worker is to be able to take any adequate advantage of the facilities afforded him, it is essential that he should first undergo a thorough course of training.

In paragraph 118 of the Report of the Departmental Committee it was pointed out that a blind child on leaving school at sixteen is not an efficient worker and cannot be expected to be a wage-earner; in other words the training institution is an essential link between the special school and the workshop. Account has also to be taken of the needs of blind persons who, owing to the age at which they become blind, or other considerations, have not attended a special school, but who are capable of benefiting by attendance at that course of training. It is to be hoped that the action now being taken by the Ministry of Health will go far to remove the difficulties hitherto in the way of the increased efficiency of the blind worker.

As the memorandum points out, it is necessary that the training of the blind students should not be confined to gaining facility in manipulation; opportunity should be afforded in the commercial aspects of the trade, the source and cost of materials, their preparation for use, buying and selling and generally the method of conducting any trade. Appropriate physical training should also be included in the educational scheme. Students who have not previously attended a school are to be admitted into an approved course only if the Board are satisfied that their age and attainments are such as would make it likely that they would profit by attendance at the course.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that the Board have decided to modify and to increase substantially grants payable in aid of the training of students of special types, and the new regulations are in the first place to provide for the payment to a Local Educational Authority of a grant of half of their net expenditure of (a) approved courses at recognised institutions provided by the authority, and (b) payment of fees of students attending approved courses at a recognised institution not provided by the authority.

There is no need for us here to quote the whole of the statutory rules and orders. We note that no institution will be recognised by the Board unless—

- (a) It complies with the Board's Regulations with reference to Special Schools, subject to such modifications as may be necessary, having regard to the circumstances of the institution;
- (b) It is so conducted as to encourage a corporate life and to afford opportunities for reasonable recreation;
- (c) The rates of fees charged by the institution for the instruction and training of students and for their maintenance are approved by the Board.

The grant payable to a Local Education Authority for a financial year will be

calculated at half the net expenditure of the Authority in the year—

- (a) On approved courses at recognised institutions provided by the Authority.
- (b) In respect of fees of individual students attending approved courses at a recognised institution not provided by the Authority.

A grant will also be payable to an institution not provided by a Local Education Authority. The grant will be payable for each financial year after the end of the year, and will be at the rate of—

- (i) Seventeen shillings for each month during which a student in respect of whom no fees were paid by a Local Education Authority was in attendance during the year, provided that the grant payable for an individual student shall not exceed £8 10s. per annum; and
- (ii) An additional sixteen shillings for each month during which such a student was resident during the year in the institution or hostel attached to it, provided that the additional grant payable for an individual student shall not exceed £8 per annum.

Grants at the new rates will be first payable for the financial year which commenced on April 1st, last year.

FIRE RISKS IN INSTITUTIONS

THE recent outbreak of fire at St. Dunstan's College for Blinded Soldiers was happily unattended by loss of life. The St. Dunstan's authorities, recognising that fire risks present exceptional dangers in institutions for the blind, have installed every possible precaution in the various homes in which they are interested, and these arrangements have been efficiently carried out by and in consultation with the well-known firm of Merryweather and Sons, Ltd., of Greenwich. This same firm has also instituted a system of periodical inspection of the fire extinguishing and escape arrangements, and regularly drill the blinded soldiers and the nurses. The wisdom of these precautionary measures was demonstrated at the recent fire, as the men were immediately removed safely under the supervision of the V.A.D. nurses in an orderly manner.

THE COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND

THE Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind has recently issued its twelfth annual report. This college was established thirteen years ago, its objects being to raise the status of teachers of the blind, to give them an opportunity of submitting their qualifications to the scrutiny and judgment of an accredited examining body, and generally to raise the tone and character of the instruction of the blind. That these objects have been achieved will be recognised by the fact that 167 candidates have been examined and certified since the foundation of the college, and that at the last examination eleven candidates took the diploma with honours.

Thirty-seven honorary certificates have also been granted to teachers of long standing and recognised ability who were working in the cause of the blind before the college was established. The issue of this class of certificate will, of course, never be repeated.

The subjects for examination include a theoretical and practical knowledge of Braille, arithmetic for the blind, the practice of teaching, and the theory of education as applied to the blind, together with one other subject to be selected by the candidate, from a list ranging from infant teaching to typewriting, Braille shorthand, woodwork, machine sewing, etc.

It is probable that some persons already qualified as teachers of sighted children might like to join the ranks of certificated teachers of the blind, in which case it would be advisable for them to pay a visit to a local school for the blind, where they could gain a good idea of the special methods adopted in schools for the blind. They should also get into communication with the Hon. Registrar, College of Teachers of the Blind, c/o National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8, Great Portland Street, W.1, from whom full particulars and a syllabus of examination can be obtained.

OOOO

There is no man that imparteth his joys to his friend but he joyeth the more; and no man that imparteth his griefs to his friend but he grieveth the less.

Lord Bacon.

GETTING ABOUT ALONE



I BEG to submit the following particulars on "Getting About Alone," from my own personal experience. I came to Bromley in Kent (a town I have never seen) in March, 1915. The house in which I am living was quite strange to me, and, above all, blindness was new. Having become familiar with the geography of my new home, I remembered that the window of a room did not usually face a fireplace, and that the mantel-piece could generally be located by the ticking of a clock. Thus I was able to avoid accidents and unpleasant knocks. Moreover, when moving about the house I found it unwise to walk with the arms extended, for by so doing many things were upset, and one presented a helpless appearance. By walking in an upright manner one receives less harm, as the body protects the head.

The next obstacle to be overcome was getting about alone out-of-doors. When walking with a friend I always inquired the names of roads and streets we passed—if there were trees either side, or whether there were many branch roads, and where they led. Later, having formed a mental map of the walk, I would take the trip alone, and so become familiar with the various landmarks—cellar-flaps, changes in pavements, hydrants, and telephone joint boxes. Many hints may be gained from discussions; by entering into conversations concerning the conditions of roads, new buildings, etc., one learns of an awkwardly situated lamp-post, a milestone, or an unusual and highly built cellar-flap.

When travelling by sound, the pavement near a tree, a wall, or a building, echoes in a hollow manner, and nearest the road gives a very solid sound. By the adoption of this method the tapping of the stick warns others of one's presence. Moreover, when remembering that roads always slope towards pavements and vice versa, it is possible to prepare for steps and avoid unpleasant shocks.

Though a stranger in a strange land, as it were, I am now able to walk from Bromley

to Beckenham, Bickley, Chislehurst, Farnborough, Hayes, Hither Green, Keston, Orpington, and Shortlands—distances ranging from two to seven miles each way.

Some essential assets are : a quiet confidence undaunted by early failures, a full measure of patience, and a keen sense of humour. In order that one may appear less conspicuous when in company, the adoption of the custom of following every sound by the movement of the eyes is a great advantage. It not only obviates the "vacant stare," but expresses an alert and active mind.

Travelling by motor omnibus may be accomplished with the same confidence as walking. A knowledge of the various services, their routes and destinations, is requisite. However, before taking a trial trip it is well to memorise the stopping places, for in this way one is aware of the surroundings throughout the journey. Moreover, it avoids the confusion of being "lost" should a conductor fail to notify one of a desired stopping point. When taking a train journey, the current time-table is a splendid guide. For it is wise to be familiar with the stations and those at which the train stops. With this information it is possible to fix a crossing of metals, a bridge, a tunnel, which serve as landmarks, for should the train stop between stations, or if the compartment in which one may be riding be otherwise empty, one does not step from the train at random. *Percy H. Ogborn.*

OOOO

WE have received a little volume containing the poems and letters of Raymond Preece, first lieutenant in the K.R.R.C., who fell in action on October 8th, 1918, at the age of twenty, having served his King and Country on the Near Eastern front, at Salonika and in France. His poems betray charm of character, great loyalty and affection for friends and parents, and a passionate love of beauty in every form. Lieutenant Preece was the son of Mr. H. C. Preece, who lost his sight some years ago, and is now the travelling Secretary of the National Institute for the Blind.

MARCH OF THE BLIND TO LONDON

TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEMONSTRATION



THE blind marchers, who have come from Manchester to London in order to interview the Prime Minister, had a rousing welcome in Trafalgar Square in the afternoon on April 24th. The party, which numbers about 200, and does not include any ex-soldiers, headed a great procession of trade unionists, who, with their banners, marched to the square in several contingents. The marchers will not leave London until they have seen Mr. Lloyd George, who will be asked to receive a deputation as soon as he returns to London.

Trafalgar Square was crowded, and it was estimated that over 10,000 persons were present. The blind marchers were ranged on the plinth from which speeches were delivered

by Mr. Sugden, M.P., Mr. J. Devlin, M.P., Mr. Herbert Morrison, Secretary of the London Labour Party, and others demanding justice for the blind. The proceedings at one platform were interrupted by a shower of silver and copper to cover the expenses of the march.

Mr. Herbert Morrison moved the following resolution, which was carried with acclamation:—"This mass meeting of the citizens of London deeply deplores the unsatisfactory social and industrial conditions of the blind, and demands that the Government shall without further delay redeem its promises by providing the necessary financial arrangements with which to give effect to the proposals embodied in the Technical Education, Employment, and Maintenance of the Blind Bill." Mr. Morrison said it was a



[Photo: "Daily Sketch,"]

BLIND MEN ON THEIR WAY TO LONDON TO INTERVIEW THE PRIME MINISTER.

disgrace that at this time they should be compelled to ask for the elementary principles of justice for their blind brothers and sisters. Every blind man and woman who was able to work wanted to work for the common good of the community, added Mr. Morrison. They did not want to work for the benefit of charity-mongers.

Mr. Ben Purse, President of the National League of the Blind, said that there were 35,000 sightless men and women in the United Kingdom, and as a testimonial to the efficiency of the voluntary charitable system they found that of that number not more than 2,000 were permanently employed. In London alone there were 3,552 blind persons, of whom one-third were incarcerated in workhouses or such like institutions.

Mr. J. Devlin, M.P., said that the cause of the blind was not the cause of any section of the people—it was the cause of humanity. It was a blot upon the Governmental system of the country that the care of the most afflicted of God's creatures should be left to private members of Parliament.

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

THE students of the Royal Normal College provided an excellent programme for the monthly concert at the National Institute for the Blind on March 23rd. There were twenty-three performers, all of whom, with one exception, were under the age of twenty-one. The balance of voices in the concerted pieces was well maintained and Wolstenholme's "Sleep, Dearest, Sleep" afforded an excellent opportunity for unaccompanied singing. The soloists acquitted themselves well, and good work was done by the two accompanists.

Mr. Etcheverria's Vocal Recital.

Mr. Etcheverria is to be heartily congratulated upon his first recital in a London concert hall, which took place at the Æolian Hall on Tuesday, April 16th. The programme, which included Italian, French, and English songs, opened with the "Prologue to Pagliacci." Among the other numbers may be specially mentioned: Elgar's fine setting of "The Pipes of Pan," and Wolstenholme's "Eccho," accompanied by the composer.

Mr. Etcheverria was in his best form throughout, and it may be noted that his voice appears to better advantage in a large hall.

Miss Muriel Rogers contributed violin solos, her tone though not large, being flexible and sympathetic, and Mr. Kiddle well maintained his reputation as one of the finest of accompanists.

There was a very good audience and the applause was most enthusiastic. Mr. Etcheverria gives another recital at the Æolian Hall on Friday, May 7th, at 3 p.m.

H. C. WARRILOW.

INSURANCE FOR THE BLIND

THE following letter, received from one of the blinded officers, will, we are sure, be of interest to our readers:—

"It may interest you to know that two of the officers who have passed through St. Dunstan's have now formed an insurance brokerage to deal with all kinds of insurance. We believe we are the only blind brokers in this country, and in addition to our business we are anxious to be of use to the blind world as a whole. We shall be pleased to advise freely on any point regarding insurance about which you care to consult us, and would transact any business you have to effect as advantageously as possible.

"We have, after careful inquiries found three first-class companies willing to insure blind persons, both in life and against accident, at the same rates as the sighted. This is a complete innovation, as formerly the difficulties of the blind in insurance were very great. If this point interests you we shall be pleased to send you all particulars.

"Apply to Messrs. Clark, Cooper & Steel, Insurance Brokers and Advisers, Cromwell House, High Holborn. Tel. Holborn 2054. The National Institute for the Blind have entrusted all their insurance work to us, which we think is a guarantee of our bonafides."

OOOO

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

BOXER GENTLY HANDLED

GUS PLATTS VISITS BLIND SCHOOLCHILDREN.

ALL boys are keen on boxing just now, and blind schoolboys are not the least little bit less keen than their sighted comrades. Time was when the uninitiated would have been amazed indeed at the idea of blind children "putting on the gloves"; but there are few uninitiated nowadays. The invincible cheerfulness of the blinded soldier has taught the general public a very great deal about the civilian blind—upon whom the limelight never played as it does, very naturally, upon those blinded in the war—and now it is common knowledge that the blind are courageously determined to master even the most difficult tasks, wherever by so doing they can feel that they are helping themselves back to the interests and enjoyments of the normal life.

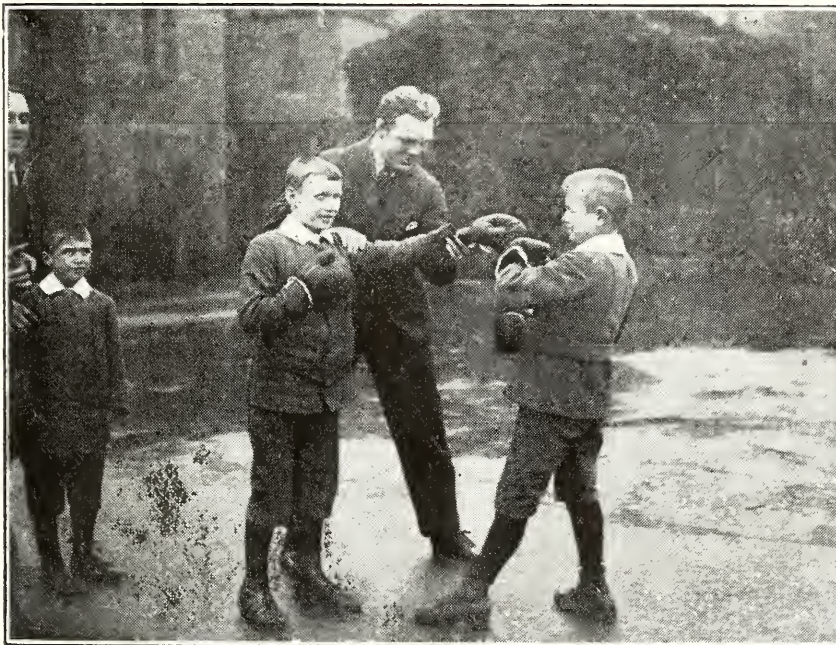
Blind school children are no less determined than their elders to learn how to overcome their handicap so that they may enjoy life to the full. The blind boys of the Sheffield School for the Blind at Broomhill roller-skate, run races, jump, skip, box and play football, and if you were to take the vote of the school you would find that the lads were most enthusiastic of all about football and boxing, the two sports that demand the greatest alertness, the most strenuous effort. For the really brave are always keen to tackle the stiffest jobs.

These blind schoolboys have been so eagerly following the boxing news that it got to the ears of Mr. Donnison, the Sports Editor of *The Sheffield Independent*, and he said he would go and give them a lecture

on boxing, giving them delightful personal sketches of boxers of the present day, and of famous "old-timers" as well. The lecture was a tremendous joy, but when the lads heard that Gus Platts, the leading Sheffield boxer, had come with the lecturer and was there in the room with them, their excitement knew no bounds. Hero-worship took possession of them and showed in their beaming faces.

Gus Platts tried to forget all about the lump in his throat and went down amongst the boys, making friends with them all. They knew everything about his fights; he was touched to find them well primed in every detail. They wanted to shake hands with

him; if he didn't mind they would like to feel his face, for they meant to remember him all their lives. This is what the eager little fellows told him, and of course Gus Platts "didn't mind" -- not he! He had "the time of his life" was his own verdict on that day with the blind school boys. This strong man felt himself gently handled for once, as little fingers crept



[Photo by W. Eadon, Sheffield]

Gus Platts, who went eighteen rounds with Kid Lewis recently, giving a few hints in his spare time to the boys at the Sheffield Blind School. Though blind, the boys take great interest in boxing, football, etc.

softly, falling like snowflakes upon his face, one boy feeling a blow-thickened ear, one putting a finger shyly in the cleft dimple on the chin, feeling the boxer's "point," where most knock-out blows reach. Platts presented a set of gloves to the boys, and other friends, on behalf of the Sheffield Sports Syndicate, also sent sets. And presently Gus Platts gave them a lesson in boxing, and they stored up in their memories valuable tips given them by this expert boxer, whom they were proud indeed to call their friend. As for Gus Platts, he tells everybody he got far more tips than he gave that day, for never, he says, did he meet such "a topping lot of sportsmen" as he met in that blind boys' school. S.B.P.

Association of Women Workers of St. Dunstan's

PRESIDENT : SIR ARTHUR PEARSON, BART.

AN Association of Women Workers of St. Dunstan's has been formed, open to all past and present workers of any department in that Institution. The objects are :—
1, To enable former workers of St. Dunstan's to keep in touch with each other and keep alive the spirit of St. Dunstan's; 2, For purposes of reunion; 3, To further any plans for the maintenance and development of the work among the blinded soldiers and sailors in the future.

The Association was formed in December, 1919, and a general meeting was called, when it was decided to run the Association with a Committee of ten, with power to add to that number—the total not to exceed fifteen; a Treasurer and Secretary. The following were elected to serve on the Committee—Miss Power, Miss Bell, Miss Evers, Miss Fitt, Miss Wilson, Miss Pain, Miss McAndrew, Miss Gregg, Miss McCullaugh, and Miss Witherby. Miss Whatley was elected Hon. Treasurer, and Miss M. Phillips Hon. Secretary.

Anyone wishing to join this Association should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Miss M. Phillips, 41 Leigham Court Road, S.W.16, enclosing a subscription of 2s. 6d. (annual) or £1 (life) membership.

oooo

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIVERPOOL WORKSHOPS.

THE annual report of the Liverpool Workshops and Home Teaching Society for the Outdoor Blind is to hand. The period under review covers fifteen months. The gross sales for this period amounted to £65,128 6s. 5d. A total of 170 blind persons were employed at the Workshops, their wages amounting to £12,114 5s. 3d. The sum of £1,004 18s. 3d. was spent on dinners for the blind. An arrangement has been made with the National Institute for the Blind, whereby this Society receives a certain proportion of the sums collected by the Institute in this district.

oooo

"Give what you have. To someone it may be better than you dare to think."

Longfellow.

The King and the Blinded Officer

A TRIBUTE TO THE ANZACS

LIEUTENANT FRANK MARRIOTT, who held a commission in the Australian Imperial Force during the war and lost his sight in France, was received by the King at Windsor Castle on the 24th ult. The Lieutenant, who is undergoing a course of instruction at St. Dunstan's, was met at the private entrance to the Castle by the Duke of Connaught and Lord Stamfordham, and taken by them to the King's private sitting-room.

For twenty minutes the King conversed with his visitor, and evinced great interest in the gallantry of the Australian Imperial Force during the late war, having a special word of sympathy for those who lost their sight. The King enquired after Mr. Clutha Mackenzie, son of the High Commissioner for New Zealand in London, who lost his sight at Gallipoli while serving in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. When Lieut. Marriott said that Mr. Clutha Mackenzie had lately married a Windsor lady his Majesty declared himself pleased.

Afterwards the Lieutenant said: "I felt quite at home with the King. He was perfectly natural and homely, and I shall ever remember his kindly manner. I take it that in inviting me the King was paying a compliment to the Australian Imperial Force, and a compliment also to what they did during the war, because it was the eve of Anzac Day. The King, knowing that I lived in this locality, showed his appreciation by asking me to come and see him."

oooo

THE CARDIFF INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

"LAST year our sales amounted to £14,741, showing an increase of £4,710, and we paid to our blind workers £2,206 in wages at the Trade Union rate for sighted labour. In addition, we paid £1,879 in bonuses, and National Health Insurance cost us £89. We have also supplied our women with overalls free, and bought suits, mackintosh capes and overcoats for our men, which they have had at cost price and are now paying for them by instalments. Married men are now receiving 20s. bonus and 16s. (part time), single men 12s., women 10s."

CONFERENCE AT CLOTHWORKERS' HALL



ON APRIL 21st, at 2.30 p.m., a meeting was held at the Clothworkers' Hall, 41 Mincing Lane, E.C., by the courtesy of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, consisting of representatives of institutions and societies for the blind, to consider the desirability of the centralisation and unification of all collections made on behalf of the blind.

Mr. Henry J. Wilson, secretary of Gardner's Trust, was in the chair, and punctually at 2.30 the Worshipful Master of the Clothworkers made a short opening address of welcome from the Clothmakers' Company to the members of the audience. As the Company is much interested in work for the blind, the Master stated that it was very fitting that the hall should be lent. Mr. H. J. Wilson, who was supported on the platform by Mr. E. D. Macgregor, of the Ministry of Health, returned thanks to the Master of the Company and stated that it was gratifying to find so large an audience present. This was a very important meeting, and numerous difficulties had been surmounted by the representatives present, in order to attend it many of them having come long distances at no slight personal inconvenience. It seemed to him that unification and centralisation of all collections made on behalf of the blind were very necessary to prevent overlapping and waste of effort and expense. The Ministry of Health was in favour of the principle of unification, and he hoped that speakers would abstain from trying to grind their own axes. Difficulties could surely be overcome by co-operation; there were numerous advantages in centralisation and unification, and not the least of these was the prevention of bewilderment in the public mind as to the devotion of monies obtained. The common cause was the great goal. He was fortunate in having Mr. Macgregor, of the Ministry of Health, who was also secretary of the Advisory Committee for the Blind, at his side, and the attitude of

the Ministry was one of complete desire for the betterment of the cause they all had at heart.

Mr. Macgregor then made a short speech, in which he said that he held a watching brief for the Ministry of Health. He had no desire whatever to prejudice the discussions that were to follow. The Ministry were dealing with the question of the blind throughout the kingdom; grants had already been given, and full financial assistance was foreshadowed. The Ministry did not wish to interfere with funds, save as regards their utilisation in the best way, and was behind everyone, both small and large, with an earnest wish to help. He did not want there to be any feeling abroad that the Ministry of Health and the National Institute for the Blind were working darkly together. This was as far from the truth as possible. The co-operation and support of everyone was wanted. He was sure that differences could be composed, and concerted effort was desirable to conserve financial resources in the best way. Narrow views meant narrow ends. There was now a good chance to establish a great precedent for good, and it was a time for broad visions. Certain services for the blind were best carried on as a national concern and there were others which could be better arranged locally. The Ministry of Health welcomed the Conference—the finest advertisement was to be had by cohesion, and a chance had now been afforded to forget mistakes, rancours and misunderstandings. The time had now come for a real advance.

Sir Arthur Pearson, President of the National Institute for the Blind, was then called upon by the Chairman to make a statement. Sir Arthur began by saying that he wished to remove any misconception as to his position there as President of the National Institute. Those responsible for an institution in the provinces might say, "Why should the National Institute for the Blind take money from our district to London?" First of all he wanted it understood that the

National Institute was not a London institution. Its headquarters might as well be in Truro, or Kidderminster or Kendal, but the obvious conveniences of London were responsible for the headquarters being in the capital of the empire. He would now ask Mr. Bailey, the Accountant of the National Institute for the Blind, to read the hard cash list of allocations made to institutions of all kinds throughout the country during the year 1919. (Mr. Bailey then read a list of figures amounting to a total of £64,755, being the total amount allocated from the funds of the National Institute for the Blind to institutions throughout the country; followed by another statement showing that on purposes of a purely national character the Institute had in 1919 expended the sum of £62,300.) He thought these figures would speak for themselves. The National Institute was no vampire. It had been suggested that a central collecting body should be formed and the results pooled. He was not of opinion that this scheme would work. Without a question the present system was disadvantageous. There was confusion in the public mind, the issue of so many circulars from various institutions was bewildering—in fact, multitudinous appeals were not to be recommended. A local institution was apt to be handicapped by some urgent local appeal. Every effort should be made for cohesion. Most societies would like to feel that they could look somewhere for a regular income with complete confidence. There was no doubt that the general collections made by the National Institute for the Blind's expert staff was successful. The National Institute had an advantage in the fact that it had established offices throughout the whole country, an organisation which was growing in efficiency every month.

The speaker entirely agreed with a point Mr. Macgregor had so wisely brought out with regard to some fund upon which to call for emergencies. Institutions for the blind should have two sorts of expenditure, one, the week to week, month to month and year to year expenditure, the other some special expenditure called for by some special need. Allocations from the total collected, say ten per cent., should be set aside for special expenditure needed by any particular organisation in accordance with recommendations approved by the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind. Many societies

had already entered into arrangements with the National Institute for the Blind. He thought that any agreement made between the National Institute and societies should be for three years, subject to a year's notice on either side at the end of the time, the agreement to be that the societies should cease collecting for themselves and give the National Institute the opportunity of taking over any organisation which they possessed. The speaker went on to say that he could not understand why it should be supposed that the National Institute, which has its hands more than full with its own concerns, should wish to eat up any local society. People were far too apt to listen to wild stories, far too ready to believe any kind of gossip.

In conclusion, the speaker said that he wished it to be clearly understood that he did not stand there on behalf of the National Institute for the Blind in any supplicatory attitude. He believed in cohesion and in working for the general interest of the blind community throughout the kingdom, but he wished to emphasise the point that the National Institute for the Blind was quite willing to act independently of all other societies, and he believed, indeed, that in pursuing this course it would be acting in its own best financial interests.

The following then spoke: Lady Putnam, Darlington Blind Home Teaching Society; Mr. W. Kirkton, Northampton Town and County Blind Association; Mr. W. H. Tate, Bradford Institution for the Blind; Mr. J. H. Minis, Liverpool School for the Blind; Miss Burnett, Reading Blind Aid Society; Mrs. Frances S. Wood, Secretary of the Accrington Institution for the Blind; Mr. W. H. Dixon, Oxford Society for the Blind; Mr. Mullins, Tottenham Court Road Workshops for the Blind; Mr. W. Ernest Taylor, Liverpool Catholic Blind Asylum; Alderman G. Barker vice-chairman of Henshaw's Asylum, Manchester; Messrs. Alfred Wilson and Arthur L. Lowe, Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind; Mr. John Ball, Northampton Association for the Blind; Mr. W. C. Knill, West of England Institution for the Blind, Exeter; Mr. Cyril Mullens, Newport, Mon.; Mr. W. Whitehead, Bolton; Mr. H. B. Turner, Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society; Mr. R. H. Turrell, Swansea and South Wales Institution; Mr. W. H. Bennett, Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham; Rev. F. J. Key, Chairman of the Walsall and Wednesbury District Society for the Blind.

The general tenor of the speeches was adverse to the proposal made for centralisation and unification. Mr. Tate of Bradford, on behalf of the six Societies and Institute for the Blind at Bradford, Dewsbury, and Batley, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley, and Wakefield, put forward two schemes that had been considered at a conference as representative of the societies named. These schemes were (1) a national agency having its headquarters and administration in London, and (2) a local agency for the area of the district, controlled by a representative committee elected by the societies concerned, and having its headquarters and staff situate at some convenient centre within the district. However, after a very exhaustive discussion the two following resolutions had been unanimously approved at the conference: (1) "that this conference re-affirms its approval of the Central Agency Scheme in operation in the area of Birmingham and the surrounding districts, and resolves to establish a similar agency in the area of No. 8 District; (2) "that the Committee of the Institutions and Societies represented at this Conference be severally invited to elect two Representatives each, who shall, together with the Convener, form a Sub-committee to investigate the matter and prepare a draft scheme for the consideration of the Conference at a subsequent meeting."

Mr. J. H. Minis, of the Liverpool School for the Blind, remarked that he did not think it was right to have half a dozen people collecting for the blind in any particular system. He did not know what gift the National Institute for the Blind possessed for collecting money, but they *had* the gift, and the Institute had done splendidly for the workshops for the Blind in Liverpool. He did not think the ordinary committee men in societies would have the time to do the wonderful things that the National Institute for the Blind had done. He was entirely in favour of the matter being left in the hands of the National Institute as collector for Liverpool. He thought that it would pay to have one collector for the whole of the country.

Mr. W. Ernest Taylor, of the Liverpool Catholic Blind Asylum, spoke as representative of the only Catholic Asylum in England, having about 230 inmates representing a particular class, but appealing to the whole of the country. He did not wish individualism to be set aside, as it seemed to him that the assistance and sympathy that everyone

could give to the blind was the result of individualism. The loss of individualism, the loss of that personal interest which is so freely given and had always been given to the blind, would be the very greatest misfortune. The institutions throughout the country had been built up, not by the State, not by the National Institute for the Blind, but by the local people in the local districts, who took that pride in them which they had always done, who had supported them throughout and who would continue to do so.

Alderman G. Barker, of Henshaw's Asylum, Manchester, spoke in favour of unification of collection, and declared himself as being anxious for the appointment of local committees, which should have representatives upon a committee in London for the disposing of funds. He did not want to appear antagonistic to Sir Arthur Pearson and his committee, and although he was sure that the National Institute's way of making collections was splendid, he felt that other institutions ought to be taken more into confidence so that a better understanding might be brought about all round.

Mr. Arthur Lowe, Royal Birmingham Institution, also spoke in favour of a system of collections under the control of a Central Collecting Committee. He went on to say that he wanted to work with the National Institute for the Blind, just as much as the National Institute for the Blind was anxious to work with them, but he did not want to be fed with the spoon of the National Institute for the Blind; but he thought that with a little quiet reasonableness they would be able to get on a working basis. His suggestion was for the appointment of a small committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Wilson or of the Health Minister, which should meet and see whether the details of the matter under discussion could not be worked out.

Mr. H. B. Turner, Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, expressed himself as indebted to Sir Arthur Pearson for the frank and full way in which he had introduced the subject, and although he was of opinion that they were all agreed that some kind of satisfactory understanding as to the unification of local effort was distinctly desirable, he thought that if the power to collect was taken out of the hands of the local units it would mean the loss of initiative and vigour, which those committees ought to possess. He thought it would be unreasonable to expect that it would be possible to have in

London a representative committee which could adequately look after the interests of every small and every remote society.

Mr. Wilson called upon Sir Arthur Pearson to reply to the objections made and to report whether he could fall in with the suggestions, especially that made by Mr. Lowe of Birmingham, as to the advisability of appointing a small committee to consider the question.

Sir Arthur Pearson began by saying that it would be impossible for him to answer every query that had been raised that afternoon. He had never had any idea that there was to be anything more than a general discussion, feeling the ground and generally ventilating the subject. As to the appointment of a committee to consider the question he had nothing to say; if they chose to invite a representative of the National Institute for the Blind the suggestion would, of course, be considered. He welcomed every sort of discussion on this subject. One of the delegates had mentioned blinded soldiers and the idea that they were going to benefit by subscriptions drawn from local sources, but he would like to put it on record that the finances of St. Dunstan's were on an entirely separate basis from anything discussed that afternoon. One speaker had asked whether the National Institute for the Blind would collect or institutions make their own arrangements. Naturally, if the National Institute for the Blind is to make itself responsible for the collections it is to collect. On the other hand co-partnership is to be welcomed, as well as the interchange and community of ideas.

The question of voluntary workers had been brought up. The council of the National Institute for the Blind were all voluntary workers, and devoted a great deal of their time to the work in which they were all so vividly interested, but naturally an institution like the National Institute, or like the Birmingham or Bradford or Henshaw's or any other big institution could not get on solely with voluntary work. There were at the National Institute a considerable number of officials, but he did not think that there was one of them who, if he were to sell his services in the open market, could not get more money than he was getting at the National Institute to-day. Mr. Lowe had asked why he thought a central committee would not work. The National Institute had very large commitments. For example, a great deal of money was being spent on the organisation and

establishment of a College for the Higher Education of Blind Girls, a thing which did not at the present moment exist anywhere in the world. With a central body responsible for all collections, over which the Institute might have no control or very little voice, it was doubtful whether a sufficient sum of money would be received from that central body for their commitments to be carried out.

In conclusion, he said that his firm conviction was that from the financial point of view the National Institute for the Blind would be far better off if left to itself; there would be much less work to do and much less trouble and anxiety. He wished to be permitted to express to the meeting his sense of their kindness in having listened to him so patiently, and also to express on behalf of his colleagues at the National Institute for the Blind and himself his appreciation for the sympathetic things that had been said about them and their work.

The representatives were entertained at tea by the Clothworkers' Company, to whom every thanks is due for their generosity.

"BLIND MUSICIAN AND THE BRAILLE"

MR. EDWARD WATSON, musical adviser to the National Institute for the Blind, who was for many years organist and music master at the Liverpool School for the Blind, recently gave a lecture on "The Blind Musician and the Braille" before the members of the Liverpool and District Organists' and Choirmasters' Association at the Rushworth Hall. He reviewed the progress made during the last hundred years in the training of the blind, and explained the various methods which had been adopted, culminating in the Braille system, which is now universally recognised. Mr. Watson showed how the Braille system is applied to music, both in composition and interpretation, and gave many instances of the wonderful extent to which the blind have developed the faculty of memory. The blind man of genius, finding music his one solace, said Mr. Watson, concentrated upon it with such intensity that the results were quite phenomenal. The National Institute for the Blind, he added, contemplated a scheme to assist blind composers to publish their works in sighted musical notation, so that they might take their place among their compeers who have the blessing of sight.

BLINDED SOLDIERS' VICTORY

THE YEAR'S WORK AT ST. DUNSTAN'S



THE Fifth Annual Report of St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors has just been issued under the title of "A Record of Victory."

Sir Arthur Pearson, in his report, states that the twelve months under review have been the busiest since the hostel was inaugurated, but the story of the triumph of the men over their

handicap is once more an unbroken record of high heroism and splendid achievement. To-day there are some 500 men in training; more than a thousand have returned to their homes. That there were many new arrivals at St. Dunstan's during the year is due to the fact that a considerable number of soldiers whose sight was damaged in the early days of the war, and who left hospital feeling that they had eyes good enough to carry them through the world in the ordinary way, have had this precious sense deteriorate or disappear. As 23,000 men were discharged from the Army with seriously damaged sight, it is impossible to say how great the future demands of St. Dunstan's resources will be.

Dealing with after-care, the report states that it is necessary to establish personal touch between the head of the administration and the blinded soldier in his home. This is possible to a large extent by correspondence, and in addition a staff of twenty visitors is employed to meet this need. They have districts allotted to them, and pay regular visits to the homes of the men in their areas to assist in any way possible.

The trades and professions taught at St. Dunstan's fall into two distinct classes—first, handicrafts like boot-repairing, basket-making, mat-making, joinery, and netting, which involve the creation or repair of useful or ornamental articles; and, secondly, the callings such as massage, shorthand, and typewriting, telephony, and poultry-farming.

The blinded soldier is supplied direct at

the lowest possible price with first-class materials, all of which have passed under the eye of an expert. Suitably placed shops are established where goods made by blinded soldiers can be displayed and sold, the men being paid the full retail price immediately on receipt of goods. Owing to the success of the men's local trade, the supply of goods does not in the case of most of the articles the men produce equal the demand made on them by the public. This is an exceedingly satisfactory state of affairs, for local trade is far more attractive to the blinded soldier, who likes to be as independent as possible, and has the added advantage of stimulating local interest in his welfare. The sales depôts, however, are always available.

Every article received for sale is examined by an expert, and only those that are well and carefully made are accepted. The fact that out of the 25,000 odd articles, valued at over £7,000, which were disposed of at the St. Dunstan's Sales Depôts during the year, under £30 worth was rejected, speaks well for the high standard of efficiency maintained by the men when working in their homes.

In the case of those men who have been trained as masseurs, shorthand-typists, secretaries, and telephonists, the after-care organisation concerns itself with their general welfare, and makes itself responsible for assuring their continual employment.

The hostel bases its claim for continued support on the following five reasons:—The increasing number of blinded men—those whom blindness has overtaken as the effect of wounds, and those whose sight has gradually failed through ill-health; the many difficult cases that are being dealt with; the delay in getting homes for the men who are ready to leave; the urgent need of the After-Care Department and the Convalescent and Holiday Homes associated with St. Dunstan's—depending principally on the generosity of the public; and the constantly growing cost of providing for the men.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

FICTION.

- Sonia, 8 vols. *Stephen McKenna*
 Laddie, 8 vols. *G. Stratton-Porter*
 Fishpingle, 4 vols. *H. A. Vachell*
 Priscilla, 4 vols. *Mrs. G. Wemyss*
 Jerome, 7 vols. *M. E. Wilkins*

FOREIGN.

- Servitude et Grandeur Militaire, 4 vols. *A. De Vigny*
 Histoire de la libre Belgique, 2 vols.
 "Istoricus" (Pierre Gæmære)

MISCELLANEOUS.

- Harold Tennyson, R.N., 4 vols. *"A Friend"*
 Practical Introduction to Latin Prose Composition,
 10 vols. *T. K. Arnold*
 *Old Lady Shows her Medals, 1 vol. *Sir J. M. Barrie*
 *Milestones, 1 vol. *Arnold Bennett*
 *Royal Auction Bridge, 2 vols. *Ernest Bergholt*
 Life of Charlotte Brontë, 2 vols. *A. Birrell*
 Icelandic Sagas, 2 vols. *W. A. Craigie*
 Round the World on a Wheel, 9 vols. *F. J. Fraser*
 Sicily, Phœnician, Greek and Roman, 6 vols.
 E. A. Freeman
 Handbook of Greek Sculpture, 10 vols. *E. A. Gardner*
 *Two Girls on the Land, 2 vols. *Olive Hockin*
 Philosophy of the Beautiful. Part 1: Being Outlines
 of the History of Æsthetics. Part 2: Contribution
 to its Theory and a discussion of the Arts, 9 vols.
 William Knight
 Cape Cod Ballads and other Verse, 2 vols.
 John Lincoln
 *Second in Command, 1 vol. *Robert Marshall*
 Fields and Battlefields, 3 vols. *"No. 31540"*
 *Trelawny of the Wells, 1 vol. *Sir A. W. Pinero*
 Girl Guiding, 3 vols. *Sir R. Baden-Powell*
 Sermons preached in Westminster Abbey, Second
 Series, 3 vols. *Ven. Archdeacon Wilberforce*
 Marching on Tanga (with General Smuts in East
 Africa) 3 vols. *F. B. Young*
 *Readings in English History from Original Sources,
 Books I. to IV., 7 vols.
 Edited by R. B. Morgan and E. J. Balley
 *Lives of Great Men (Told by Great Men) 4 vols.

MOON.

- Whalers, 3 vols. *J. J. Bell*
 Log of a Sea Waif, 7 vols. *Frank T. Bullen*
 Englishwoman's Adventures in the German Lines,
 2 vols. *Gladys Lloyd*
 Tales of Fish Patrol, 2 vols. *Jack London*
 Outwitting the Hun, 4 vols. *Lieut. Pat O'Brien*

MUSIC.

- VIOLIN AND PIANO—
 Album of Recreations, No. 2.
 1. Abendständchen *L. Mendelssohn*
 2. Eglantine *Clothilde*
 3. Idyl. *C. Burleigh*
 4. Fleur de Lis *Brown-Grün*
 5. Danse des Fleurs *Tollier-Grün*
 6. Cantilena Pastorale *Harris-Grün*
 7. Consolation (Song without words, No. 9)
 Mendelssohn-Grün
 8. Valse Fantastique. *C. Burleigh*

* Stereotyped Books.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

THE Committee of the National Library for the Blind have much pleasure in announcing that owing to the generosity of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust they have been able to produce the Library's Catalogue in embossed type. The Literary Section runs into three volumes and is now obtainable on loan. Should any reader wish to purchase the Catalogue, they are on sale at the Library, price 7s. 6d. the three volumes.

The Music Section of the Catalogue will shortly be completed. This will run into two volumes and will be obtainable on loan or at the price of 5s. for the complete work.

The print edition of the above has for some time been obtainable, price 1s. 2d. post free for the Literary Section, and 7d. post free for the Music Section.

OOOO

THE next of the series of monthly piano recitals given at the National Institute for the Blind by Mr. H. V. Spanner, music librarian, to advertise the music at the National Library for the Blind, will take place on Tuesday, May 18th, at 7.30 p.m., and all those interested are cordially invited to be present.

OOOO

READING COMPETITION

THE first competition held at the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1., for the Reading Prize founded by Mr. W. H. Dixson in memory of Miss E. W. Austin, will take place at the Library on Monday, May 10th, 1920. Owing to the number of competitors there will be two judges, of whom Prof. Gilbert Murray has kindly consented to be one. The competition will start at 5 o'clock, and competitors should be at the Library by 4.30 p.m.

OOOO

AT the recent examinations of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseurs, Corporal Herbert Vickers, a blinded soldier of St. Dunstan's, passed first in all subjects with distinction.

OOOO

"Happiness does not consist in possessing much ; but in hoping and loving much."

Lammenais.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—NO. 42.

JUNE, 1920.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL



HE burning wrongs of women? Alas! what are they beside the burning wrongs of helpless babes and children?" Thus a modern woman writer, and how true are her words. For to the woman belongs the present, to the child the all-important future, and our declining birth-rate and the manifold problems of our time render it imperative that the future generation

should be as well fitted as possible to shoulder its responsibilities. It is of the utmost importance, as all modern teachers will admit, that the early training should be in as efficient hands as possible—that the young mind, as impressionable as wax in the hands of the sculptor, should be moulded into a thing of power and beauty, and not, as may so easily occur, be marred for lack of right treatment. The fallacy of the old idea that *anyone* would do to give the child its first lessons—by which was meant the "three R.s" and very little else—has been abundantly proved. We deplore the fate of the unfortunate child who is the victim of a so-called "system," but more so that of the child who is brought up in a haphazard fashion, and allowed to follow its own uncontrolled course.

What more terrible thing for a mother than to hear from the lips of her own flesh and blood—"Why did you bring me into the world; I didn't *ask* to be born." Having brought the child into the world—often as thoughtlessly as one plucks a wayside flower—it is the duty of every parent to see that it is adequately cared for: not with the care

that can be bought with money, but that mind and body should be so fitted and trained that it may be able to bear the burden and heat of the day. It is a sad thing that very often parents are the persons least fitted to bring up their own children.

A child can and should receive training almost from the very first day of its life. Good habits are so difficult to acquire in later life. Pity the poor human being who, when he has long passed the pliable age of childhood, is forced to learn the hard lesson of self-control.

These remarks apply equally to the blind child, of whom we are now thinking in particular; it cannot start its lessons too early in life. Much future despondency and anguish may be spared if it learns as a matter of course to be neat and clean, self-reliant and self-controlled. It is of the utmost importance that it should comport itself as other people do—so easy, if it be neglected, for it to acquire bad habits and queer manners—so natural that people should treat it as queer in consequence, thereby causing the mind to become more and more unbalanced. We are dealing here with the case of the blind baby—the blind baby, untaught, often uncared-for and neglected, the child who may possess the seeds of as good mental capacities as his sighted brothers and sisters, whose mind, if left untended in those first five all-important years, will wither for lack of nourishment. We plead, too, the cause of the blind child of prosperous parents, whose wealth of love and pity are so lavishly expended on their afflicted offspring that it is not allowed to move hand or foot on its own behalf, and not only grows up a nuisance to itself and to others, but is

actually *made* to become mentally unfit. Last, but not least, we plead the cause of the blind and mentally deficient child, for much can be done to ameliorate his lot, and here, too, the first five years—the formative years—are all-important.

There are, alas, very many uncared for blind children in the land, but it is hoped that very shortly adequate training and efficient care may be provided for all. The case is one of national importance, and the National Institute for the Blind is this month inaugurating a campaign which it is hoped will be successful in bringing in sufficient funds to provide Homes

for all these handicapped little ones. Glancing at the figures for the census for 1910 we find that there were then 198 blind children under five years of age, of whom many had become blind through neglected illnesses, and the greater number had been born blind as a result of the dread ophthalmia neonatorum.

War conditions have greatly increased the numbers, and fresh cases are daily becoming known. For many of these little ones a bright and healthy and happy life may be secured—as far as is humanly possible—instead of a world of darkness and despair. That this is not merely the idle dream of a visionary is proved by the work already being done in one small community of blind children—a community the aim of which is to promote the health and normality of its little members, whose ages range from a few weeks to five years.

We have often had occasion in these pages to mention "Sunshine House," the only Blind Babies' Home in the world, where twenty-five of these little ones "who have never seen the sunshine" are yet experiencing all the warmth of its rays in an atmosphere which tends

to happiness and contentment. We have described the organised work, the organised play, the bright and cheerful surroundings, the love and care and sympathy which are bound to leave their impressions on the baby minds. "They are taught to hold themselves straight" was the impression received by a visitor to this bright house in sunny Hertfordshire. Yes, and to keep on holding themselves straight through life, in spite of the eyes that cannot see. "Those who are born blind or lose their sight in infancy," says Sir Arthur Pearson in his great book "Victory over Blindness,"

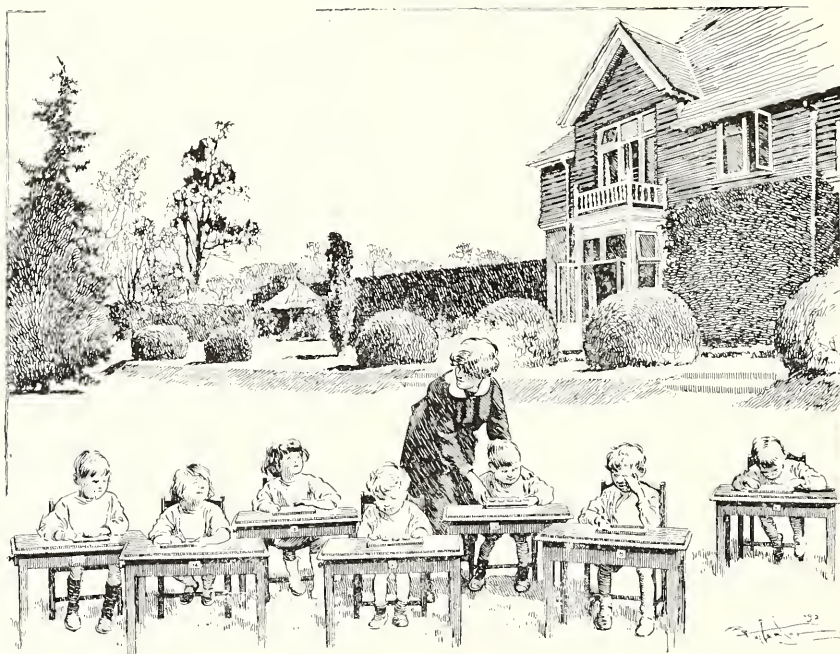
"are at a great disadvantage compared with others who have seen the world, and whose memories are stored with all that is in it." So—lighten their darkness, fill their little minds with happy thoughts, with visions splendid—and whatever of bitterness Life's cup may hold, give them that one unfailing source of joy—

the memory of a happy childhood.

OOOO

ON MAY 31st, June 1st and 2nd, an Old English Fair was held at the Kensington Palace Field, under the patronage of Queen Alexandra, in aid of "Sunshine House." There were a great many attractions, including all the glories of the good old English Fairs—roundabouts, cocoanut shies, etc., to say nothing of dancing on the green, supervised by Madame Vandyck, and a splendid orchestra under the direction of Mrs. Jennie Warner. A host of society people and well-known actresses gave their support to the undertaking.

Princess Beatrice was present on the first day of the Fair.



LEARNING TO READ AT SUNSHINE HOUSE :
A KINDERGARTEN CLASS IN THE GARDEN.

BLIND CHILDREN*

LAUGHING, the blind boys
Run round their college lawn,
Playing such games of buff
Over its dappled grass.

See the blind, frolicsome
Girls in blue pinafores,
Turning their skipping-ropes.

How full and rich a world
Theirs to inhabit is—
Sweet scent of grass and bloom,
Playmates' glad symphony,
Cool touch of western wind,
Sunshine's divine caress.

How should they know or feel
They are in darkness?

But, O the miracle!
If a Redeemer came,
Laid finger on their eyes—
One touch, and what a world,
New-born in loveliness!

Spaces of green and sky,
Hulls of white cloud adrift,
Ivy-grown college walls,
Shining loved faces.

What a dark world—who knows?—
Ours to inhabit is!
One touch, and what a strange
Glory might burst on us,
What a hid universe!

Do we sport carelessly,
Blindly upon the verge
Of an Apocalypse?

Israel Zangwill.

[*Reprinted from "Blind Children" (Heinemann), by special permission of Mr. Israel Zangwill.]

BLIND MAN'S LONG WALK

THOUGH seventy-two years of age, Mr. Charles Wagstaffe, of Oldham, who for over twenty years has been an untiring worker for the blind, took part in the blind men's walk from Manchester to London. He felt perfectly well at the end of his self-imposed task. Mr. Wagstaffe, who was by far the oldest man to take part in the walk, acted as collector during the long tramp. He stated that he was greatly impressed by the warmth of the reception

given them by the general public. On one occasion difficulty was experienced about lodgings, but as soon as this was known they were soon accommodated. They, however, met with very varied experiences. Some nights they slept in five beds, while they also spent the night on bags of straw in tents and in a workhouse. The party were on the road for three weeks, and during the first fortnight the weather was very bad.

THIRTY YEARS IN THE DARK

BLINDNESS has always been regarded as one of the most grievous afflictions that could befall a human being. It is true that the blind, as a class, are wonderfully cheerful, differing in that conspicuously from the deaf and dumb, who are prone to melancholy. Yet sympathy goes out to the former far more freely; and it is the blind, rather than the deaf, who have appealed to the popular imagination and left their mark in tradition and written story. What tragedy there is in the blindness of Samson, in the wanderings of the sightless *Œdipus*, in Milton, bereft of vision, dictating "Paradise Lost" to his daughters! Who is not touched to the quick by the boy prince's pleading for his eyes in "King John"? By the measure of our own dread of blindness, then, we can gauge in some degree the joy of those who have come out of the darkness into light.

The case was recorded in the papers recently of a Derbyshire farmer, sixty years of age, who has just recovered after a successful operation the sight which he lost thirty years ago. It is hard to put one's self in such a man's place, for the experience must have been like that of coming back from the dead; yet it is worth while to attempt it. The man lost his sight soon after he was married. His family have grown up from infancy, and he has only been able to follow their growth by voice and touch. He opens his eyes to the world again to see two young grandchildren for the first time. For thirty years he has been dependent on the kindness of others for many little offices. Once more he can use his limbs and faculties with freedom. He is able to take over the management of the farm, which he had to relinquish to his wife when blindness came upon him. But what will be his feelings as he looks on a changed world, and on a wife grown old?

BLIND PERSONS BILL



DR. ADDISON, in moving the second reading of the Blind Persons Bill on Friday, May 14th, reminded the House that he had pointed out when a private members' Bill on the same subject was introduced, that the proposals embodied in that measure were impracticable in the present state of public administration, and had promised to develop proposals on which the Ministry of Health had been working for a long time. The present Bill was brought forward in fulfilment of that pledge. In consequence of the very useful work of the Advisory Committee on the Blind a complete survey had been made of existing agencies for dealing with the blind, gaps in the present facilities had been discovered, and it had been possible to frame this Bill on sound lines. Steps had been taken to increase the preventive services against blindness, and the right hon. member for the Gorbals Division (Mr. G. Barnes) had undertaken to preside over an important inquiry in regard to that matter. It was known that blindness in infancy was associated in a large degree with one form of venereal disease. Apart from preventive services, there was need that facilities should be provided for blind persons to learn some trade, in order that they might be aided to earn a livelihood, and the Bill would enable local authorities to provide and maintain or to contribute towards the provision and maintenance of workshops, hostels, homes, or other places for the reception of blind persons within or without their area, and to combine to make further arrangements for promoting the welfare of the blind. The amount of the Government grant towards the expenses would be increased to 50 per cent. Further, provision would be made by the measure that those persons who were so blind as to be unable to perform any work, and were fifty years of age, should be entitled to receive the pension to which in ordinary circumstances they would become entitled under the Old Age Pensions Act on reaching the

age of seventy years. The Bill would render the War Charities Act, 1916, applicable to charities for the blind, and make it necessary that those charities should be registered and approved.

Mr. Denniss said the right hon. gentleman's speech was more satisfactory than the terms of the Bill. He could not see why an unfortunate blind man should wait to the age of fifty before he got an old-age pension. He hoped Clause 1 would be amended to provide that a blind person at any age should not be compelled to suffer want and privation. Mr. G. Barnes (Glasgow, Gorbals, Lab.) expressed great satisfaction that this long-neglected problem was at last being dealt with. The training of blind men was of more importance than the pension. Blind men did not want to be kept in idleness. Captain Loseby (Bradford, E., C.N.D.P.) hoped that Clause 1 would be amended in Committee, because there were blind men under fifty who were unable to work. We must carry our broken men, and every blind man who was unable to work should be accepted by the State as a collective responsibility. He hoped that some extension of the old-age pension would be made in Committee.

Mr. Neil McLean (Govan, Lab.) said the Labour Party did not regard the Bill as adequate to meet the circumstances of the blind men. If the sympathies of the House were to be translated into benefits for blind people, the Bill must be compulsory instead of permissive in character. The Labour Party did not wish to retard the second reading of the Bill, but they intended to assist the Government to strengthen it. When the Bill got into Committee the Labour Party would do their best to so remodel the measure as to incorporate in it some of the clauses of the Bill promoted by that party, which was wider in its scope, and placed greater obligations and duties upon local authorities.

Sir J. Butcher (York, C.U.), while congratulating the Government on introducing

the Bill, urged that Clause 2, which was merely permissive, should be strengthened against slack local authorities, and that a blind person should be eligible for pension before the age of fifty. Mr. Sugden (Royton, C.U.) suggested that when the Bill got into Committee clauses should be inserted providing educational facilities to enable blind children to go from the elementary school to the university, and thus enable them to enter the professions. Commander Dawes (Southwark, S.E., C.L.) thought all blind persons ought to be made eligible for pensions, thus saving them from the harassing questions which they had sometimes to answer, and leave it to those in a good position to intimate that they did not need the pension. Mr. Mills (Dartford, Lab.) hoped the Bill would be strengthened, especially in regard to the attendance on poor mothers at confinement. It was well known that many cases of blindness were due to the ignorance of persons who gave service at childbirth. Mr. Moles (Belfast, Ormeau, C.U.) said that as it had been his misfortune to sit in the blackness of physical blindness for weary weeks, he vividly realised the misery of the blind. Anything that the Government could do to ameliorate the condition of the blind it was their duty to do. If the right hon. gentleman could not make the charge obligatory on public authorities, he hoped he would provide that where they failed to perform their duty the State should assume the responsibility.

Mr. G. H. Roberts (Norwich, Lab.) said that the real secret of the problem was not the disbursement of charity, but the enabling of these blind people to be self-supporting and self-respecting citizens. He therefore welcomed most cordially this Bill. If a person was incapacitated, whether from blindness or other cause, he thought it was incumbent upon the State to maintain them decently. If the age could be lowered further he would give it his support. He would be prepared to see the Bill made mandatory on the local authorities, but as the problem was national in character, the liability should be national, or, at any rate, the proportion of the burden borne by the Exchequer should be increased, to the relief of the local rates. The co-operation of trade unions should be secured in regard to the employment of blind persons after they had received industrial training, in order to avoid the apprehension that the labour of the blind might be utilized to depress the standard rate of wages in certain

industries in which the work was of such a character that blind persons were fully competent to perform it.

Mr. A. Williams (Consett, L.), Sir C. Warner (Lichfield, C.L.), Sir J. Hope (Mid Lothian and Peebles, C.U.), Sir J. Rees (Nottingham, E., C.U.), Mr. Seddon (Hanley, C.N.D.P.), and Mr. McGuffin (Belfast, Shankill, C.U.) also supported the Bill.

The Bill was then read a second time.

A LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

WE have received a letter from Grahams-town, Cape Colony, which gives some interesting details concerning a small circulating library for the blind. This library was brought over from England and inaugurated about six years ago. Its readers, some twenty-two in number, are scattered over the Cape Province, the Transvaal, and the Orange Free State—thirteen are Dutch and three are elderly persons who read books printed in Moon Type. There is no subscription to the Library, but when readers are able to afford it, they pay postage both ways. As the cost of postage on a book of six volumes is 5s., this constitutes a heavy item of expense to those who are earning their living as organists, teachers, pianotuners, etc., and who are for the most part too proud to allow the postage to be paid for them.

All the readers keenly appreciate the books, and a Dutchman who is extremely fond of poetry, on returning "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to the library recently, wrote: "I have thoroughly enjoyed the play—in fact I could hardly bear to part with it."

OOOO

THE 127th Annual Report of the Royal School of Industry for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trim, is a satisfactory one. Good work was done in all departments during the year and there was great demand for all classes of work produced by the technical pupils. The music has attained a high grade of efficiency and examinations in both organ and piano-playing are now conducted at the school itself. Physical and remedial exercises are constantly practised, and many in and out door recreations have been introduced. All the apprentices who left during the year have found employment, and encouraging reports of their progress have been received.

READING FOR THE BLIND



THE production of books for the use of blind readers, although little is known of it outside the small circle of those immediately concerned, is a department of publishing which is of great and growing importance. It has reached its present considerable proportions because of the modern appreciation of the intellectual needs and capabilities of the blind, coupled with an immense improvement in the mechanical processes of Braille printing. What Caxton did for the world at large has been accomplished for the blind community by Braille, the inventor of a system of embossed writing, and those experts in mechanical contrivances who have brought to perfection a printing press adapted to the rapid reproduction of his symbols. In Braille (the system now being known by the name of its inventor) the characters of the alphabet are represented by combinations of six dots, arranged in their primary order, like the six dots of a domino. The characters are embossed on paper and can then be distinguished by touch. The advantage of this system over the old method, that of embossing ordinary type, is that the dotted line is easily distinguished by touch, so that recognised contractions may be used and the characters may be reproduced in comparatively small size without sacrifice of clearness of outline. A thorough knowledge of the system, including its set of contractions, can be acquired by a few weeks study; as compared with Pitman's shorthand, for example, it presents little intellectual difficulty. Ability to read by touch as quickly and as easily as the normal person reads by sight comes with practice. Some idea may be gained of the extent of the revolution wrought by the adaptation of the printing press to the reproduction of Braille when it is stated that in the early days of the system all embossing had to be done dot by dot and by hand. As the Braille page has to be

printed from the back, all this embossing had to be done from left to right of the page, involving a laborious infliction of pin-pricks appalling to contemplate. And after all this expenditure of patient labour the result was only one copy of the transcribed book, short-lived, for the passing of the fingers in time obliterates the dot. All this has been changed and simplified by the invention of machines whose operations are analogous to those of the typewriter and the linotype in relation to ordinary writing and printing. The Braille linotype operates directly upon a sheet of metal from which the final printing or embossing is done. Thus the process of producing a book in Braille is much the same as the operation of setting up and printing a newspaper, with the elimination of the foundry part of the process necessary in the case of the newspaper. The result of this great development of technical devices is that Braille readers are no longer dependent on the good-will and patience of those devoted people who laboured to produce embossed books, slowly and painfully, but are able to drink of the copious stream which flows from the presses of the National Institute for the Blind. It is natural that the publishing department of the Institute should be active and enterprising, for the President of the Institute and the leader in all matters affecting the care and education of the members of the blind community in this country is Sir Arthur Pearson, whose fame in the larger world of publishing was built upon enterprise and success.

In order to promote and encourage the love of reading among the blind as much as possible, the National Institute makes very large grants of books and pamphlets annually to the National Lending Library, free of all charge whatever.

The literary needs of the blind are catered for, in the main, by the National Institute, as printer and publisher, and the National Library for the Blind, Westminster, which possesses a very large stock of books, covering

a wide range of literature. A glance at the Library catalogue is sufficient to indicate how far we have travelled since the days when the pious belief was that all that could be done for the blind reader was to present him with a copy of the Bible in embossed type, and to leave him to ponder on his sorrows and to comfort himself with the hope of release from an unhappy lot which death alone could bring. The governors of both the institutions mentioned are alive to the needs of their clients. On the question of the literary education of the blinded soldier, we propose to offer some considerations later. First, however, it may be of interest to illustrate one or two of the problems which have to be solved by the Braille publisher in discharging his duty towards the civilian blind, who form, of course, the big majority of his patrons. Braille publishing is not a commercial business. It is not possible to judge of its success or failure on the basis of profit and loss. The rough and ready device of placing on the market a miscellaneous assortment of wares and trusting that the good sellers will balance the deadheads is not feasible here. The Braille publisher stands in the position of a trustee, responsible for the employment in the most beneficent manner of the money placed at his disposal by a generous public, and responsible also to his clients. He is, of course, relieved of many of the anxieties which trouble the ordinary publisher; indeed, he is greatly indebted to his brethren of the trade, for he has permission to transcribe into Braille practically every book issued in this country. This is his great task—to select from the mass of material at his disposal the books most desired and most worthy to be read by those for whose benefit he exists and who are themselves unable to range over the whole field of literature, sampling its fruits for themselves. He is, in fact, the keeper of the literary conscience of his public, the arbiter of what they shall read. There are many interests to be considered. Children at school, students of special subjects, men and women of varying culture and divergent taste; all these have to be thought of and an endeavour has to be made to allocate the material available fairly as between the different classes. This is a task great even from the point of view of bulk, for the classics of English literature of former periods have to be dealt with as well as the modern books, of the making whereof there is no end. The Braille publisher and those who advise and

assist him are but human, and the end for which he strives is modified by the means at his command. He is apt to look askance at the classics—particularly in these days of paper scarcity—for the classical writers are often prodigal of words. The paper necessary for this style of printing is thick and of good quality, and until the introduction of the new standard dot which allows about twenty-five per cent. more reading matter in the same space as before, it was impossible to squeeze more than 180 words into a page of about the same size as a page of the “*Encyclopædia Britannica*.” Under these conditions a novel of even modest dimensions becomes voluminous. The greatest classic of all, the Bible, when done in Braille, attains to the stupendous dimensions of something like forty volumes. It says a good deal for the generosity of the public and for the enterprise of the publishers that no author has been banned by the Braille libraries merely on account of his loquacity.

Recently the editor of the “*Braille Literary Journal*,” a monthly periodical circulating among the more cultured members of the blind community, invited his readers’ opinions of the *Waverley Novels*. His object was, in part, to ascertain whether the vogue of Scott was such as to justify the continued transcription into Braille of that somewhat wordy maker of romance. A good many readers responded to the invitation and all of them wrote with enthusiasm of the merits of “*Waverley*,” some of them also making shrewd comments on his idiosyncrasies. An editorial suggestion that “*The Heart of Midlothian*” might have been a better novel if the last third of it had never been written met with no support; in some cases with indignant repudiation. So far the enquiry may be said to have produced nothing very different from what might have resulted had the jury been composed of normal, sighted people of average intelligence. What may be considered remarkable was that the majority of these blind readers named as their favourite of the *Waverley Novels*, “*Ivanhoe*.” One lady, deaf and blind from infancy, described Scott as the delightful companion of her lonely girlhood, and declared her preference for “*Ivanhoe*,” with “*The Talisman*” as second favourite. Were it possible to induce a score of healthy British schoolboys to read the *Waverley Novels* and to pass judgment on them, would they not give exactly the same verdict, bestowing the palm upon the stirring

tale of valiant knights and peerless maidens, tourneys and deeds of derring-do? Yet what a world of difference lies between the lives and experiences of the two classes of critics. The literary taste of the blind varies in much the same way as that of other folk. The only definite statement that one cares to make is that there is always an eager welcome for books of travel dealing with the manners and customs of far-off lands, and for works on natural history.

So far we have been dealing with the needs of people who have been blind from birth or infancy and whose tastes have been formed under the influence of a system of education adapted to their peculiar condition. The case of the soldier blinded in early manhood presents a different set of problems. Surely to the man whose activities are henceforth to be circumscribed by reason of his heavy loss no greater service can be rendered than to create where it is non-existent and to foster where the seeds are already sown an appreciation of what literature has to offer of consolation, inspiration and delight.

"Choose for me"—such is the usual reply of the newly-blinded man when he is asked what he would like read to him. With the burden of choice thus thrown upon him, the reader—having first considered what this particular man would like—finds himself eventually confronted with the larger question—what would be liked by newly-blinded men as a class. To answer it he asks himself wherein they differ from the sighted, and so he reaches the conclusion that their reading takes more time per word, and this whether they read Braille or are read to. The newly-blinded man is likely to be impatient with what is diffuse. Inanities are more stifling to one who cannot skip over them, and the man we have in mind cannot skip himself owing to the difficulty of picking up his thread, neither can he be skipped for—that is to say, that as to skip when reading to a blind man is to confess boredom, the reader is apt to read with the more animation the more bored he feels. On the other hand, as the blind man gives more time to each line of print, he may be able to assimilate more thought per line than one who travels faster. These considerations seem to indicate that the reading which is best for the blind is that which is short and pithy.

They are, however, considerations which do not apply to reading that is purely informative, for instance, a text book on the

rearing of poultry. With this, as the blind man is subject to the general law that beyond certain limits concentration defeats its own object, it is of no advantage to him to find statements which should be susceptible of one interpretation, and one only, expressed in terms too abstract to call up any precise idea. Nor does the formula govern reading for amusement. Since this is undertaken to distract rather than to exercise the mind, it may make too great demands on the attention by being concise; moreover in the nature of things it will vary with the individual to a greater extent than that which deals with the large principles which are common to mankind. Perhaps all that can be usefully said of it is that, as the blind man has difficulty in referring back to clear up ambiguities, the telling should be lucid and logical; and that, as he travels slowly, the tale should not be so long that the beginning is forgotten before the end is reached. O. Henry is a popular author with blind men. His sinewy, vivid sentences hold the attention without tiring it, and the promise that they are leading up to some startling conclusion is not only amply fulfilled, but fulfilled sooner than the reader expects and in a way he had not reckoned with. Another author equally popular is Jack London—partly perhaps because his gift of selecting those details which conjure up images puts the blind man on a level with the sighted; partly because each of his short chapters can be regarded as a complete story of some striking event; partly again because each chapter, nevertheless, leads up to and throws light upon the next. He gives full measure of incident, and the incidents possess cumulative value and are logically articulated. This articulation means much to a man who has to take his reading in small portions; and one may doubt if many blind men will find pleasure in the typical Russian novel, a long, rambling psychological study, in which the hero proffers his vitals for inspection, a handful of oddments at a time. Truth is, doubtless, there, but depicted in a form which leaves the revelation of the parts to the whole not easily discernible. In fact, if connections are important they must be clear; where long books are deliberately chosen by a blind man, usually they will be found to present loosely connected pictures of life—for instance, such novels as *Pickwick*—or to be works of biography or history, where the arrangement, dictated by the factor of time,

is obvious without investigation or effort of memory. To sum up, there must either be a plot or no plot.

But these vague indications will not open those magic casements which reveal fairy-land to blind and sighted alike. In the rough classification that has been suggested there remains a third division. Beside books that instruct and books that amuse, there are books that stimulate thought—those “few books that are to be chewed and digested”; in short, books which constitute literature. To put in communion with literature those among the blind who have difficulty in reading to themselves or in finding others to read to them is to confer upon them so incalculable a boon that the man who is taught Braille should be taught not only to read, but at the same time inwardly to digest what he reads. A literature class, then? In effect, yes; but the term is too formal. What the blind man needs to acquire is the art of chewing the literary cud; and he could pick it up best from what the French call a *causerie*—a gossip about an author by someone who has found him entertaining and is burning to share his find. Instances would be Mr. Chesterton on Dickens, Mr. Kipling on Mark Twain, Mr. Bernard Shaw on G. B. S. Blind men can find the time for thinking out the implications of each sentence, and their thoughts are “long, long thoughts.” Even at St. Dunstan’s, where it is a brave axiom that blindness is nothing worse than a handicap, they are taught pastimes, and as the occupation of deciphering a line of Braille letter by letter is one which exacts rather than kindles attention, the time will pass not less pleasantly if the investment of a minute’s fingering brings with it as a bonus an hour of spontaneous mental absorption.

To the blind man as to others there come periods when, though he is in no mood to master useful facts, books which merely amuse—books of which the type is the detective story—are too fantastic to be satisfying; but he is unlike others in having fewer outlets for the energy of which he is conscious. Tell him, then, about the magic casement. The books which instruct and the books which amuse present him with other men’s thoughts, that is, with something from without which takes possession of him, no mean gift, but not one to be varied at his pleasure; moreover instruction tires and amusement palls. On the other hand literature takes the reader out of himself; her gift is ecstasy; at

her bidding the newly-blinded man—the man who passes the shy, slow hours feeling his way with a stick—the man who must stand and wait—is free to wander where he will at the moment of his own choosing, unhampered by those fetters of time and space that weigh more heavily upon him than upon those who can see. Literature restores to him his independence, the loss of which is an ever-present reminder of his other losses.

What we are considering here is the pleasure of the blind man rather than his profit; the aim is to make his life more pleasant by indicating how he can keep alive those interests from which in the bewilderment of a prostrating shock he may believe himself cut off. It was one line from Bacon about books to be chewed that suggested what is written here. First it set in motion a train of thought, and then it prompted the writing of a paper which—however little it may interest the reader—filled for the writer several hours very pleasantly, filled them indeed with the most absorbing of pleasures—the pleasure of making something. Almost any line from the same essay together with a typing machine would have done as much for any blind man who let himself be enticed into a ramble round his own mind. He need not have kept to the hard high road as we have done; he is not going to market. There were green paths he might have sauntered along; one in particular which branched off backwards at the point where short books were recommended. A step or two aside here and he might have been gazing at the huge panorama where the three peaks of the glittering d’Artagnan range dominate court and camp. “So then,” says the objector, “you would deny Dumas to the blind man?” Not necessarily, for he draws pictures of life if any man did. Moreover, what it is essential you should remember you cannot forget—Dumas sees to that. But his exuberance is as much part of himself as fat is part of Falstaff. His native amplitude is not to be reduced. Some good books can be condensed; few would be found to protest if “Old Mortality” were shorn, for instance, of its introduction; but who could be trusted to summarise Dumas? Only that enthusiast who would think it sacrilege to cut him at all. Conceive some worthy patriot—fearful lest we should become dissatisfied with our 5 oz. of offal—censoring the great gormandising scene in which the King and Porthos eat against each other—deep calling unto deep, as viands and

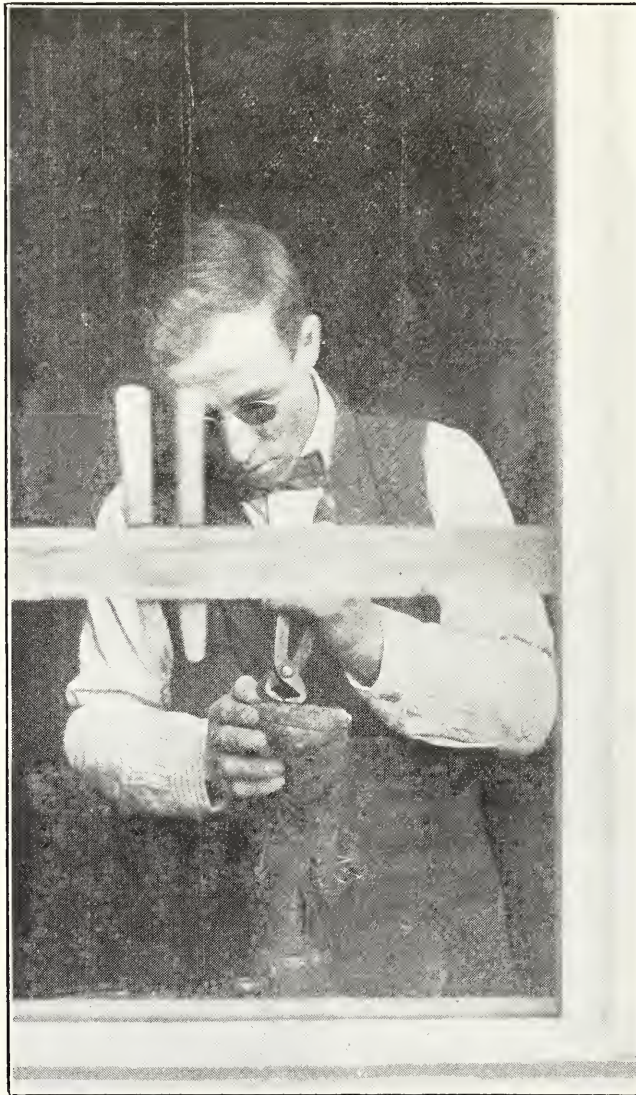
vintages are engulfed ! Such people exist, and they will be the first to offer themselves as readers. There was Miss Yonge, "who introduced me to d'Artagnan to dissuade me from a nearer knowledge of the man." But our by-path has led us into the Stevenson country, and we must hurry back to the high road.

The point is that good reading means entertaining thinking. But what is good reading? The term implies the sensibility to discriminate between what is good and what is not good; and with most of us the necessary delicacy only comes with cultivation. But the seeds of discrimination can be learned, and the student would do well to let himself be guided at first in his choice of books. One might offer two hints; first, let him have faith enough to credit writings that have stood the test of time with some merit; secondly, let him ask himself if he agrees with what is stated, and why. In the matter of stimulating thought the writer—the good writer—whose assertions excite protest should be more fertile than the one who commands assent. If we read in the Bible that "The Lord is a man of war," we accept the statement out of respect for its source, and pass on without paying further attention to it—our attitude is that of any wife to any husband. But if we read in Nietzsche "Ye say that a good cause sanctifies even war, but I say that a good war sanctifies every cause," we are apt to mutter "bosh," because we are prejudiced against the source. Give reasons for the rejection, and if you put them down on paper you will want a column for your saving clauses, such a tangle will you find yourself in over ethics.

In certain social gatherings one pays a penny for every oath ; in the literary class one should fine oneself a reason for every movement of impatience.

So much for the reading that makes you think ; there is also the reading that makes you see. "As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land"—blinded Australian from the "Peninsula," does that make you see something? The Bible again? At the very

time when there is a reaction against the theory that would confine the blind as God-afflicted men to religious reading, we come back to the Bible by another road. For the mind's eye the Bible is the greatest picture-book in the world. What book has less padding? "They slew the son of Zedekiah before his eyes and put out the eyes of Zedekiah." Think it out. The pictures we have already mentioned; as a further instance take "His daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances." The Bible appeals to the mind with aphorisms and to the feelings with poetry. *Poetry?* Isn't that what we have been looking for? More concentrated, more vivid, more suggestive than prose; one stanza of it—one line—may set the blind man musing and dreaming. And then—who knows?—



EX-ST. DUNSTANER, BOOTMAKER—

whose musings may grow into an essay, his fancies into a poem, his ramble into a trip to market with wares to sell of his own making. But the selling is no such great matter: "to journey hopefully is better than to arrive, and the true success is to labour." Nevertheless it may hearten the blind man to be reminded that other blind men have been to market before him and done a good trade with their wares. "The gate with dreadful faces thronged and fiery eyes,"

suggests that blind Milton could see enough for his own purposes, and what eyes were ever turned to better literary account than blind Homer's :

"But the child shrank crying to the bosom of his fair-girdled nurse, dismayed at his dear father's aspect, and in dread at the bronze and horse-hair crest that he beheld nodding fiercely from the helmet's top. Then his dear father laughed aloud, and his lady mother."

In the last few years hundreds of soldiers have seen the very things described by Milton and Homer, and, if they would not have written about them in the same way, it is not that either the words or the thoughts are a monopoly of trained men of letters. Indeed they are simple enough to suggest that the darkness positively helps the blind man to visualize the things that matter by hiding all that is trivial.

"In the pleasant orchard
closes
God bless all our gains"
say we,
But "May God bless all
our losses"
More suits with our degree.
F. M.

0000

LOOK within : for within is the spring of good that is ever ready to gush forth if thou wilt but dig patiently.

Marcus Aurelius.

0000

A READING COMPETITION FOR THE BLIND

PROFESSOR GILBERT MURRAY and Mr. Fisher White acted as judges at a very unusual and interesting competition held on May 10th, at the National Library for the Blind, Westminster.

Mr. Dixon, of Oxford, who is himself blind, offered prizes for the best reading of prose and poetry from Braille volumes, and twenty-six blind competitors presented themselves. Each in turn read a selection from R. L. Stevenson's "Inland Voyage,"

and also a piece of poetry. The selections were about 250 to 300 words in length, and some of the readers got through the two in about five minutes.

Not only was marvellous speed attained in reading by fingering raised type, but some of the readers displayed remarkable elocution, and read the selection in a way which would have done credit to a sighted person. The prize-winners were the Rev. Henry Lewis, Mr. Littlewood, Miss Jameson, and Mr. William Sharp, Home Teacher for West Surrey.

0000

THE SECOND OLDEST ORDER

THERE was very little difference between the essentials of the recent installation service of Knights of the Order of the Bath and those which have marked similar ceremonies during the 500 odd years the Order has been in existence.

The Order was established in 1399 by Henry IV., and comes second in rank of English Knightly Orders, that of the Garter, instituted half a century earlier, taking precedence. The King is, of course, head of the Order.

0000



—AND MAT-REPAIRER

RECENT ADDITIONS TO MESSAGE LIBRARY

37 Bolsover Street; Librarian, Dr. Lloyd Johnstone.

Human Hand and Foot, The; by Prof. Wood Jones. (pocket edition).

Pathology of Inflammation and the Healing of Wounds and Repair of Fractures; by Capt. P. H. Mitchiner. (pocket edition).

Some Remarks on Bone-setting; by James B. Mennell. (pocket edition).

Voluntary Muscular Movements in Cases of Nerve Injuries; by Prof. Wood Jones. (pocket edition).

What We Know of Ourselves; by Prof. Wood Jones. (pocket edition).

MEETING OF THE EDUCATORS OF THE BLIND

ON Friday, May 14th, a meeting of Educators of the Blind was held at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1. The meeting was well attended, and amongst those present were:—Miss Balchin, Miss Bell, Miss Brautigan, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. E. Edwards, Miss Ellis, Miss Falconer, Miss Garaway, Miss Holmes, Miss Hunter, Mrs. James, Miss Morley, Miss Radford, Miss Roberts, Miss Rothwell, Miss Steele, Miss Weaver, Dr. Lilian Wilson, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Davies, Mr. G. H. Gadsby, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. B. P. Jones, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Ritchie. Many members of the staff of the Institute were also present and took part in the proceedings.

Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E., President of the National Institute, opened the proceedings, and in a short speech of welcome reminded those present that the last meeting of a like nature was held on the 26th May, 1916. He was very pleased indeed to see such a representative gathering present, as the question of the provision of up-to-date books was a very urgent one. Naturally, the selection must be a limited one, and for that reason it was essential that it should be a good selection. He therefore looked to the educators for their wise counsel and advice, being anxious, as they all were, to see that the blind children were placed on a level with sighted children as regards educational training. He reminded the meeting that blind people could only "see" the things that they could handle, and drew attention to the importance of models, so that the imitative faculties of the sighted child could in a measure be copied by the blind child, who would be able to learn the shape of objects through the medium of touch.

Mr. Illingworth, of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, moved a vote of thanks to Sir Arthur for the work that he had done and was doing to improve the education of the blind, and Mr. Guy Campbell, of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, endorsed Mr. Illingworth's remarks.

Sir Arthur was unable to remain for the whole of the meeting, but Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General, directed the proceedings,

which included the selection of various educational books now needed in colleges and schools for the blind. A carefully compiled list of these was recommended to the Council of the Institute for publication in the Braille type.

Much admiration was expressed by the delegates on the fine selection of models now being produced by the National Institute for the Blind for free use in schools for the blind, and it is certain that much good will result from the meeting.

BRISTOL BLIND BOYS VICTORY IN SCOUTS' CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION

THE competition for West Bristol Boy Scouts for the Challenge Cup, presented by the Commissioner (Colonel R. Brittan), took place at Christ Church Hall, Clifton, on Saturday, May 8th. Owing to preparations being made for the forthcoming "Jamboree," entries were not so numerous as anticipated. The troops competing performed the required exercises with precision, alertness and vigour, reflecting great credit on the Scouts and those responsible for their training.

District Scoutmaster Avison, of Tyneside, in the absence of Colonel Brittan, acted as judge, and awarded the cup to the Royal Blind School Troop, Westbury-on-Trym. There are few competitions in the Scout movement for which the blind boys can enter by reason of their handicap, but they excel in physical training. The District Commissioner (R. W. J. Pavey), in presenting the cup to the Blind School Troop, congratulated the Scouts upon their great achievement. The Challenge Cup, which bears the following inscription, is competed for annually: "Physical Training College Cup, the Best Troop in the West Division Bristol Boy Scouts' Association, Presented by Colonel R. Brittan, Commissioner." 0000

A THRILLING race is going on in the mercantile shipyards of this country and the United States, the rest being nowhere. At the moment we are leading by a short head, with something over 3,000,000 tons on the "ways"; but America's "mass production" theories, aided by her new wartime shipyards, give her a sporting chance of catching up. It now costs us just five times as much to build a merchant steamship as in 1913.

"DELIVERANCE"

IN a moving picture play called "Deliverance," written by Francis Trevelyan Miller, and directed by George Foster Platt, an attempt has been made to depict the life story of Helen Keller. The *New York Times* reports its presentation at the Lyric Theatre, New York, as follows :—

"There is more in a 'life' of Helen Keller than is dreamed of in any other life. It is a succession of wonders, of strange, mysterious, awe-inspiring things at which ordinary human beings can only marvel—and, perhaps, be stirred to greater endeavour in their own lives. It is such a life that the screen attempts to depict, and its success is remarkable."

The story is divided into three acts or chapters. The first is about the child Helen, deaf, dumb and blind, a little wild animal raging in a strange world until her famous teacher, Anne Sullivan, comes to bring knowledge and understanding slowly into her life. This is, perhaps, the most appealing and at the same time the most amazing part of the story, for it shows in eloquent moving pictures how the process of instruction was begun and how it progressed. At first there is the tedious spelling of "water" by Miss Sullivan pressing her fingers in the palm of Helen's hand, and then other words follow, until deliverance has really begun—Helen can communicate with her fellow creatures.

The second wonder follows after a long struggle, in which the child's passionate eagerness to learn is seen in everything she does—Helen learns to talk. The effect of the picture on the spectators may be indicated by the fact that when she was represented as saying, "I am not dumb now," the house broke into spontaneous applause. A number of times while the picture was being shown there were such outbursts, showing that the story was holding and stirring those watching the screen.

In the first part the rôle of Helen is played by a very clever little actress, Edna Ross. In the second part another young actress, named Ann Mason, appears as Helen. In the third and last part, Miss Keller herself appears, together with Miss Sullivan (now Mrs. Macy), Mrs. Adams Keller, her mother, and Phillips Brooks Keller, her brother. Her life of to-day is pictured. She is seen at her work, her dreams, at her play, and her

message of courage and faith is emphasised by quotations from her writings and symbolical scenes.

SECRETS TOLD BY THE EYE

THE iris of the eye—the coloured part between the pupil and the "white"—gives the most important indication of the health of the individual, according to Mr. Clement Jeffery, M.A., who recently informed a newspaper reporter that no method of diagnosis revealed the condition of the organs with such exactitude and certainty as this study of the iris. "Just as the texture of a carpet indicates its strength and resisting power," he said, "so does the iris indicate the constitution of the individual. A diseased condition in any organ of the body is revealed in the iris.

"If the iris is divided into sections the area covered by numbers 2 and 3 corresponds with the lungs. Hence, if there is any disease in the lungs it is revealed in that particular area."

"All disease is due to encumbrance of morbid matter in the tissues. We do not interfere with the symptoms by the use of poisonous drugs or the knife, but aim at the removal of the actual cause of the symptoms. This is achieved by scientific dieting, by spinal treatment, by exercises, and other natural methods.

"When drugs are given in other treatments their presence is revealed in the iris as foreign matters in the system, which in their turn give rise to new mysterious symptoms. They are suppressed by further poisonous drugs, and so the vicious circle is completed.

"No disease is incurable under natural methods of treatment unless the destruction has gone too far. It is the so-called incurables who come to us. This system was discovered by a Hungarian, Dr. Peczely, who gave a lecture on it over ten years ago, when a Medical Congress was sitting. It was repudiated by the doctors, but the results show its incalculable value."

oooo

"I should wish that it could be said of me, that I always plucked the thistle and planted the flower where I thought the flower would grow." *Abraham Lincoln.*

BRAILLE BOOKS

"AT last it has come, the men are reading Braille for pleasure!" In a recent number of the *Outlook for the Blind*, Mrs. Gertrude Rider wrote that it was a day to be remembered when, after weeks of patient, hopeful waiting, a letter came from the Acting Librarian at the Red Cross, to say that the boys at "Evergreen"—the American counterpart to St. Dunstan's—had finally mastered their aversion to learning Braille. This means, of course, that more and ever more Braille books are required, and Mrs. Rider tells of the excellent work accomplished by volunteer copyists both before and after copying was organised under the Red Cross Institute for the Blind. "Workers who begin with a desire to do something for the war-blind, in the end become interested in all the blind," and at the time of writing about 8,000 pages of manuscript, comprising 175 volumes, had been completed.

In her mention of machine-embossed books, Mrs. Rider incidentally pays a tribute to the work of the National Institute for the Blind. "We are said to have possessed up to 1914," she writes, "the largest number of machine-embossed books in the world, but the increased output of the English presses in the past four years has changed matters. The National Institute for the Blind now turns out by far the greater part of books printed in embossed type in the world. Their

output for the year 1919 was as follows:—Literature volumes, 20,303; Literature pamphlets, 13,361; Music volumes, 2,329; Music pamphlets, 18,334; Magazines, 43,818; Newspapers, 109,297. And let it not be forgotten that war very greatly increased the difficulties of production. . . . The English interpointed and interlined Braille books delight our

readers. They also welcome the pocket size ($6\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$) volumes that may so conveniently be carried about. These small books now cover a considerable range of titles, and can be purchased for from 3d. to 6d.

"Without decrying the pleasure of being read to," Mrs. Rider goes on to say, "there is for the blinded man a special delight in being able to read for himself. Also reading Braille quickens to a surprising extent the faculties upon which a blind man has to rely. The epoch-making books in science, the philosophy of history, great tragedies greatly written, novels that are faithful portrayals of other lands and other ideals—all of these open doors to a wider and sometimes a higher world. . . ." And the value of books to a blind man may be gauged by the words of an ex St. Dunstaner—now out in the world—who recently wrote: "When I have spare moments, I turn gladly to the books I took

no notice of when I could read with my eyes."

OOOO

THE Gillette Safety Razor Company, Ltd., 184-188 Great Portland Street, generously announce that they will be pleased to supply their goods at wholesale terms to any blind persons who care to call at their office.



THE "GENTLEMAN TRAMP,"
who is celebrating his seventy-eighth birthday by
walking from Land's End to John o' Groats, collecting
for St. Dunstan's on the way

"NOTABLE BLIND MUSICIANS"

A MORE than local interest attaches to the booklet with this title, in which Mr. Colin Macdonald, Manager of the Dundee Royal Institution for the Blind, records the careers of former pupils of that Institution who have made their mark in the musical profession and in business associated with the art. Beyond directing renewed attention to the very valuable work which has been and is with ever-increasing success being accomplished at Magdalen Green, this series of brief biographies from a practised man shows in the happiest way that blindness is not a totally crippling affliction, but only a handicap which energy and application can largely overcome. This comforting fact is noted in an admirable preface contributed by Mr. William C. Leng, President of the Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind. Mr. Leng cites the triumphant example of the Right Hon. Henry Fawcett, who became a Cabinet Minister, and adds that large legal and industrial businesses are controlled by blind men, and that Mont Blanc had been ascended by a sightless mountaineer. The comforting effect of these reminders is reinforced by the life stories told with literary care and ready sympathy by Mr. Macdonald. Samuel Smiles himself would have welcomed these illustrations of victories over a seemingly insurmountable obstacle. It is certainly remarkable that from a small school so many men have emerged into public prominence, and the inevitable deduction brings to view not only the excellence of the training supervised by Mr. Macdonald, but also a cheerful camaraderie giving practical stimulus. Portraits accompany the notices of Mr. Henry Marshall, Mr. Joshua H. Brand, Mr. Duncan MacPherson, Mr. Tom Garvie, Mr. William Jackson Farquhar, and Jonnie Beveridge, "the blind comedian." Other notices are unaccompanied, but in themselves are really pen-portraits.—*Dundee Advertiser*.

OOOO

THE mind has more room in it than most people think, if you would but furnish the apartments.

Gray's Letters.

OOOO

WHAT we can do for another is the test of power; what we can suffer for another is the test of love.

B. F. Westcott.

MUSICAL SUCCESSES

STUDENTS OF THE ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE.

ASSOCIATED Board of the Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music :—

School Examinations (Singing), Lower Division.—Kathleen Blake (Distinction), Ethel Bunton, Audrey Lidington (Distinction), Emily Penn, Hilda Sage (Distinction), and Elsie Whitehead.

Pianoforte (Elementary).—Lance Gibson. (*Lower Division*).—Emily Penn.

Local Centre Examinations (Singing), Intermediate Grade.—Dorothy Smalley and Lily Wincey. *Pianoforte (Advanced Grade).*—Amy Francis and Roma Harfoot.

Licentiate Diplomas of the Royal Academy of Music.—Beatrice Hargreaves and Lucy Leek.

Associate Diploma of the Royal College of Organists.—Sydney Jones and Robert John Wyetts.

(Sydney Jones has been successful in gaining the Sawyer Prize in the above examination.)

STUDENTS OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, BIRMINGHAM.

During the year 1919 the following Certificates were awarded by the Incorporated Society of Musicians. The list is arranged in order of merit :—

Grade IV.—Marjorie Jones, Nora Smith and Leslie Pritchard.

Grade III.—Editha Waring (Distinction), Herbert Bond (Distinction), Walter Carey (Distinction), Marjorie Bradbury, Violet Welch, Walter Greenfield and Roland Pitt.

Grade II.—William Bundy (Kindergarten Branch) (Pass with honours), George Scarf (Kindergarten Branch) (Distinction) and Frances Laurence (Distinction).

Grade I.—Herbert Steel (Kindergarten Branch, with honours), Reginald Roberts (with honours), Stanley Taylor (Kindergarten Branch) (Distinction), William Faux (Distinction), Evelyn Neale (Distinction), Ernest Manning (Distinction), Eva Teale (Distinction), Ella Bartlett, and Monica Colquhoun (Kindergarten Branch).

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—No. 43.

JULY, 1920.

PRICE 3D.
3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL



It was Lowell who said:—

"There is no true alms which the hand
can hold;

He gives only the worthless gold
Who gives from a sense of duty,"

and we feel that at the present moment the words of the American poet can be recommended very cordially to the attention of certain factions of the community who seem to think that charity should be abolished from our public life.

There seems to be a very extensive cry in many quarters at the present time for complete State control of every branch of our industrial life; we are to have State-controlled railways, mines and fisheries; our philanthropic institutions, as we know them at present, are to be swept away, lock, stock and barrel, and the whole of our interests are to be placed in the hands of a parental and beneficent Government who will see to it that the phrase "work for all" is to inaugurate the beginning of a Utopia where poverty will exist no more and where everyone will be given an equal chance to earn a living wage.

Now it would be folly in the extreme were we to admit that all is well with things as they are at present, but it seems to us that those hot-headed enthusiasts who would eliminate that beautiful word "charity" from the dictionary are rather apt to forget the fundamentals of human nature. If the Government says—we are going to see to it that everybody who is possessed of a sufficiency of worldly goods be forced to contribute an annual sum of money towards the maintenance of the less fortunate members of the

community—then all those sums which are at present given cheerfully and voluntarily by all people able to do so will be taken under pain of penalty, and it will be "worthless gold," given only through compulsion.

There are many people who say that charity is degrading, that it degrades giver and recipient alike; but surely charity is not such a narrow word as all that. Charity comprises the Christian love of fellow men, it is a natural affection, and as such must assuredly call forth all the good qualities that lie in human nature.

It is very easy to prove anything by statistics. Cold figures when set out in rows are very convincing, and when you read in some statistical paper that there are, say, 50,000 qualified bricklayers in the country and that there are only 10,000 of these earning a living wage, if you judge such a statement merely in the light of a revelation of social failure without troubling to probe further into the matter, certain factors which would alter the true facts of the case can never be brought to light. For instance, a man may be a bricklayer by trade, announce that he was such, and yet find far more profitable ways of "earning" his living. He may, for example, discover that the career of a professional begging-letter writer pays better than brick-laying, that he may call himself a bricklayer and be a bookmaker's tout, or he may even adopt, sub rosa, the exciting if somewhat precarious calling of a professional cracksman. There are many people who complain bitterly if they see a blind beggar on the streets; they might ask, "What is the State doing to allow this?" But if they pressed the matter home they might discover that that very blind beggar who had awakened

their pity and resentment had been given a chance to make good as a wage-earner, but had drifted back into the ranks of beggarmdom for the simple reason that the excitement and public pity is a means of getting the grist from the public mills far more easily and far more extensively than by honest labour.

It takes all sorts to make a world, and success in life is either a matter of heredity or the inborn power to make good. However much civilisation changes the face of the world, there is one thing that has never changed since man and woman came into the world, and that is human nature, and surely it is human nature which should make charity a word of real beauty.

.

We think it fitting to reprint here a letter which appeared in *The Times* on June 2nd, from Sir Arthur Pearson, on the Welfare of the Blind. We hope our readers will study the letter carefully, and we should be very interested to hear from any of our readers who have any views on this all-important subject.

To the Editor of "The Times."

Sir,—The Bill to promote the Welfare of Blind Persons, which passed its second reading in the House of Commons just before the Whitsun recess, has given much anxious thought to the members of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind.

We feel that Dr. Addison's Bill, though making a decided step in the right direction, does not offer blind people an adequate amount of assistance. The Bill makes it permissive for local authorities to incur expenditure for the erection and improvement of workshops for the blind and for helping them in other ways; half of the amount expended to be recoverable from the National Exchequer. We take the view which was taken by several members of the House of Commons in the debate upon the second reading of the Bill, that this should be an obligatory and not a permissive regulation. In the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind the Government has a body which is fully competent to make the necessary recommendations. Local authorities have so many matters of urgency before them nowadays that we think it extremely improbable that a permissive enactment will, in the vast majority of cases, lead them to take any active steps.

We do not consider that the extension of the benefits of the old age pension to blind persons of fifty years and over is an adequate allowance. A very large percentage of adult blind people lose their sight long after it is possible for them to benefit from any useful training, and are dependent upon the charity of friends and relations, the rather meagre resources of the pensions societies for the benefit of blind people, and the Poor Law. We feel that this amount should be doubled, and that blind persons over fifty years of age should receive £1 a week, the old age pension to which they become entitled after the age of seventy being in their case augmented to this figure. We feel, too, that a grant of a like amount should be given to

blind persons below the age of fifty who are incapable of earning anything substantial towards their livelihood. Here again, the Advisory Committee is in a position to obtain the requisite information. The benefits to the blind offered by the Bill do not extend beyond the points I have mentioned, except in so far as the very welcome proviso that charities for the blind are to be registered under the War Charities Act, thus preventing the continuance of some bogus societies.

We wish that the Bill were wider in its scope, and that there could be added to it a clause by which local institutions could be provided with funds sufficient to enable them to carry out adequately a system of caring for blind persons living in their neighbourhood, but not working in their premises. It is surely unfair to insist that blind persons should be herded into workshops, regardless of their predilections as to locality and to the solace and help which they may obtain from relatives and friends near whom they reside. Each responsible and properly-conducted workshop throughout the country should be placed in a position to care for the scattered blind in the neighbourhood of which it is the centre, training them for home work, supplying them on the most moderate possible terms with raw material, and assisting them to market their goods. The very remarkable success which has resulted from the adoption of this method in the case of blinded soldiers and sailors who have been trained at St. Dunstan's places me in a position to speak with exact knowledge of the manner in which this tremendous advantage can be extended to blind civilians, and of the extremely beneficial results that accrue from it.

Some three years ago the National Institute for the Blind, encouraged by the success of St. Dunstan's methods, started a widespread organisation of the kind for blind civilians, but at the end of last year it became evident that the matter was one of such magnitude as to render it beyond the resources of any individual institution, and we found ourselves reluctantly compelled to stop the industrial side of this work while retaining and extending other far-reaching features of it. The Government is already providing workshops with funds, which are in many cases utilised for the augmentation of wages, and this presumably will be continued. State aid should in no way lessen the efforts of the voluntary agencies for the blind, but rather encourage them to renewed endeavour, as there are, and always will be, many necessary services to these heavily-handicapped folk which can never come within the scope of State assistance and State control.

My colleagues and I most sincerely hope that the members of the Committee before whom the Bill now has to go will take steps to inquire of those who are really competent to advise them in regard to these matters, and that when the Bill comes before the House for its third reading it may appear in a form which will benefit the blind people with whom there is so deep and widespread a sympathy much more materially than it will as at present drafted. It is wrong to take the view that all blind people are helpless, and in need of assistance, but unfortunately this is so in the case of a very large number of them, particularly of those who have to contend with some infirmity in addition to their blindness.

I have always urged upon the Government that they will have the fullest sympathy of the public in meting out generous treatment to these handicapped members of the community, and I think I may claim

to be in a position to speak with some authority on this subject, for I have to back me in my opinion the knowledge of the ever-ready and generous response which has been made by the public to appeals which, during the last seven years, I have put forth on behalf of the blind.—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR PEARSON,

President, National Institute for the Blind.

224-6-8, Great Portland Street, W.1., June 2.

Following on Sir Arthur's letter, the views of Dr. Thomas Burns as expressed in *The Times* of June 15, will be of interest to our readers :

To the Editor of "The Times."

Sir,—All interested in the welfare of the blind must thank you for opening your columns to an expression of views with regard to this Bill. A universal feeling of disappointment prevails among those associated with work for the welfare of the blind. We have in Scotland a national federation of all institutions and societies who are actively engaged on behalf of the blind. As president of that federation, will you permit me to state that at a recent meeting the Bill now before Parliament was carefully considered. We came unanimously to the following resolution :—

That this executive consider that the Bill is utterly inadequate to meet the pressing needs of the blind, and that the following provisions should be included in the Bill :—

1. That in view of the recommendations made to the Government by the Departmental Committee and the Advisory Committees on the Welfare of the Blind this executive urges the Government to make direct provision for the needs of the blind through the Board of Health, and not through burgh and county councils.
2. That representative boards, on which burgh and county councils would be represented, would ensure a more uniform and co-related scheme than if left to separate local authorities, as the blind are a relatively small number and often scattered over wide areas.
3. That if dealt with through local authorities the Bill should be obligatory and not merely permissive, and local rates should be relieved by liberal Exchequer grants.
4. That provision should be made to confirm and continue the grants already given to institutions and agencies for the blind.
5. That provision should be made for the assistance of blind persons under 50 years of age who are either unemployed or unemployable.
6. That training and employment should be ensured for all blind persons of employable age and capacity.

As representing the Scottish Federation, I desire to acknowledge the courtesy accorded to us by Dr. Addison and the officials of his Department, with whom I and others have discussed the necessity of amendments upon the Bill. We agreed to consider the Bill carefully and to prepare reasoned amendments and bring these forward, so that when the measure is considered in Committee amendments might be adopted which will make the Bill a real measure of help to the Blind. It is not that at present.

A copy of the above resolution has been communicated to all Scottish members of Parliament, and the federation feels so keenly on the matter that it hopes to have a meeting in London with Scottish

members and others who will take a practical interest and see that the Bill is moulded more in harmony with the clamant needs of the Blind. The Ministry of Health and its advisers are most sympathetic, but in other quarters—and it is here that one feels the difficulty arises—the extreme urgency of the case is not appreciated. With a rise of 150 per cent. in the cost of living it is utterly impossible for private charity to meet the needs of the case. A duty lies upon the nation to provide for the blind, who are sufferers through no fault of their own, and all interested in the welfare of the blind earnestly hope that Parliament will do justice to the case by generously amending the present Bill.

Might I suggest that it would be well if the English institutions and societies for the blind form a federation somewhat on the lines of the Scottish Federation, so that the united views of all workers for the blind might be placed before Parliament and Government Departments when matters relative to the care of the blind were under consideration?—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS BURNS, D.D.,

President of Scottish National Federation of Institutions and Societies for the Blind.

58 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh.

OOOO

BLIND TEACHER'S RECORD

A PARTY of L.C.C. teachers, with 5,364 years' service between them, were received by the Education Committee recently on their retirement.

The majority had served from twenty-five to forty years, Mr. C. J. Chase, Camberwell, with forty-seven years, holding the record.

Miss J. E. Butler, a blind teacher, who has been at a St. Pancras school for thirty-nine years, had a very cordial reception.

OOOO

TOY BALLOON FLIES TO FRANCE

AT the Old English Fair, held at Kensington Palace Field, in aid of the Blind Babies' Home, one of the most popular competitions was the sending up of small balloons, which the finders were asked to return to the secretary, the sender and finder of the balloon travelling the greatest distance to receive a prize. So far the record is held by the balloon which was found in a meadow at Biville la Riviere, near Rouen. The sender of this balloon was Major G. Herbert Scott, C.B.E., who was captain of the R 34 on her double Atlantic flight.

OOOO

A COUNTY association for the promotion of the interests of blind people has been formed at Norwich under the presidency of the Lord Lieutenant.

THE SYSTEM OF TRAINING IN RHYTHM AND RHYTHMIC MOVEMENT



RHYTHM has been defined as the life-blood of music. Music without rhythm, according to our western idea, is impossible. As a simple example of this you have only to sit in a railway train while the train is thundering along the track and you will find that unconsciously in your brain there will form some sort of rhythmic phrase conveyed by the sound of the

wheels as they roll along beneath you. It may be—"tum-ti-ti, tum-ti-ti tum," or "tum-ti-ti tum, tum-ti-ti tum," but it will be found that it is impossible for you not to construct some such rhythmic phrase from the noise you hear. And all children are born with some sense of rhythm; they love to dance and clap their hands, and it is the elaboration

of such simple natural means of expression as these that the wise teacher will seize hold upon and develop into the beginnings of musical form.

In *Punch* some years ago there appeared a picture in which a little boy was saying to his mother—"Mother, there is only one thing that comes between us, and that is this wretched music!" And when anyone of middle age looks back into childhood and remembers the knuckle-rapping pencil of

the music mistress and the soul-sickening monotony of the then only existing type of music instruction, he can take comfort from the thought that to-day it is being more and more clearly realised that music teaching should be made as interesting as possible and that the love of music which exists as a germ in practically every child should be fostered and encouraged until it develops into real musical appreciation. Such a book, therefore as "The System of Training in

Rhythm and Rhythmic Movement," compiled by E. E. Morley and Edith M. Jones, and now in practice at the Queen Alexandra Kindergarten for the Blind, Harborne, Birmingham, is very welcome.

We specially appreciate what Miss Jones has to say in her general remarks as to teaching aims. It is of paramount importance that musical educa-



PRINCESS BEATRICE AND THE BLIND BABIES AT THE OLD ENGLISH FAIR

[Photo: "Daily Mirror."]

tion should provide for the free development of the child on its own lines, for, as has been truly said by one of our greatest educationalists, the important part of education is not what you put into a child, but what you draw out of him. This is obviously the ideal that the compilers of the little book under review have at heart and we thoroughly commend to our readers' notice the booklet which is published in both Braille and letterpress by the National Institute for the Blind.

CHARITIES AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

THE IDEAL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM TO BE FOUND IN A COMBINATION
OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BENEVOLENCE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

(By Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart.)



IT seems to me that the question, "Should charities continue to depend upon voluntary contributions, or should they be nationalised and supported out of the taxes?" must be answered in a manner which differs according to the nature of the particular charity under consideration.

Some charities, the conduct of which is now left to private benevolence, should in my opinion be most certainly a charge upon the taxes; while it appears to me equally certain that others would be far better if left, both as regards their financing and their administration, to private initiative. It must not be forgotten when this question is considered that it is an axiom of British administration that support out of public funds necessarily involves control by public officials. Now in the case of charities where all recipients can be properly treated alike—and these are, I think, very few—official control, with its almost necessarily narrow outlook and lack of discrimination, should be capable of meeting all requirements. But in the case of a charity where cases have to be dealt with individually, if they are to be dealt with successfully, private beneficence, with resulting private solicitude, is, I believe, far preferable.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

In many instances it would probably be found that a mixture of the two systems would lead to the best results. I can give exact examples of my meaning, and ones which I trust will make it quite clear.

The Ministry of Health—from which I believe that great things may be expected in the way of nationalising charity wherever it is wise and expedient to do so—is about to take under its wing all classes of so-called afflicted persons, including the blind. I should like to say here that I mortally object to the word "afflicted" when applied to

people who, like myself, are deprived of sight but otherwise normal, though I freely admit that it is not ill-used, except for its morbidity, when applied to the unfortunate folk who are mentally or physically deficient as well as sightless. However, I use the word here in a general sense, as it is the one most ordinarily employed.

But I am glad to say that the Ministry of Health has recognised the fact that blind people cannot be reasonably treated as though they were grains of wheat all to be forced through the same mill, all to be accorded exactly the same consideration, however varying their needs.

THE TREATMENT OF THE BLIND

The result of their recognition of this difficulty has been that they have taken into alliance with them the National Institute for the Blind, of which I have the honour to be President, and have decided to leave to that organisation matters connected with the welfare of the blind which are of such a nature that they cannot be adequately dealt with by public officials dispensing public funds.

There is, I think, no necessity that I should go into the detail of the method by which this arrangement will be worked out. The existence of the broad principle is the point which I desire to emphasise.

I believe that if the charities of this country are to retain the proud position which they have gained, and are to continue to accomplish the great work which they have performed in the past, it will in many instances be found necessary to combine public and private charity in some such manner as that in which they will in the future be combined by the mutual working of the Ministry of Health and the National Institute for the Blind.

THE FRESH AIR FUND

As an instance of a charity which could, and I think should, be supported from public funds, may I be allowed to mention the

Fresh Air Fund, which I have conducted for nearly thirty years, with the co-operation of the Shaftesbury Society, and which during that time has sent millions of children from the slums of our great cities to the country for a day, and scores of thousands to the country or the seaside for a fortnight. These children are all treated exactly alike, and precisely the same amount of money is spent on each of them.

Though I am extremely proud of the Fresh Air Fund organisation, and of its splendid body of voluntary helpers all over the country, I see no reason why it should not be efficiently administered out of public funds. The need for it is perfectly evident. So long as there are crowded slums, and poor children in them, these children should be given a whiff of country air and a sight of country scenes.

I am sure that charitable private individuals will continue to support the Fresh Air Fund so long as they are asked to do so, but I do not believe that it should be necessary to ask them.

ST. DUNSTAN'S

And, as an instance of a charity which I do not consider could have been adequately conducted by public officials spending public funds, may I refer to another effort with which I have been very intimately concerned? I allude to St. Dunstan's.

I hope that I shall not be judged as egotistical if I say that I do not believe that this establishment for the re-education and training of the men blinded in the war could have achieved the truly wonderful results which it has achieved had it been conducted as a public institution. If the newly blinded man is to be led to forget his handicap swiftly, and to readjust his life without wasting time on vain regret in such a manner that he once more becomes a normal, useful citizen, he must have individual care and treatment of a nature which it is more than improbable he would receive at the most sympathetically conducted public institution.

So, to sum up the answer to the question, I think that some charities should continue to exist upon private subscriptions, and be administered privately; that others should look to public funds for their support, and to public officials for their administration; and that yet a third group should depend upon a combination of public and private assistance.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

BLIND CANDIDATES

FOR many years past attempts have been made to secure for blind candidates at examinations "equality of opportunity" with sighted candidates, and we are glad to record that step by step all the difficulties in this respect are being overcome. The blind and those interested in their welfare neither ask nor would have any concessions. They merely ask to be afforded facilities which will put them on the same footing as the sighted. An appeal was recently made by a member of the staff of the National Institute for the Blind to the University of London with regard to examinations conducted by that body. The Senate of the University most kindly and sympathetically considered the question. They approved the transcription into Braille type of questions set for candidates, and granted the blind candidates the option of answering these by the Braille system or by the employment of an amanuensis. A blind candidate entered for the Matriculation Examination held in the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, in the middle of June. To ensure the strictest secrecy essential for such examinations, a competent Brailist, holding the University Degree, and a trustworthy amanuensis were employed to transcribe the questions of each paper one hour prior to the actual time of sitting for it, thus affording the blind candidate an opportunity of reading through the questions just as sighted candidates can do. The keenest interest was maintained throughout; the appreciation of the candidate was obvious, and the Senate of the University are to be congratulated on having created a precedent which does not grant concessions, but, as we have previously said, puts the blind candidate on an equal footing with the sighted candidate.

oooo

BOOKS ADDED TO MESSAGE LIBRARY

For Month ending 8th June.

Arboreal Man; by Prof. Wood Jones. In 2 vols.

Home Exercises for Spinal Curvatures; by Richard Timberg. In 2 vols. (pocket edition).

Physico- and Psycho-Therapy; by Dr. Paul Bousfield. (pocket edition).

THE MONTESSORI METHOD



THE school, as it exists at present, is torn between the restrictions under which it is held by municipal laws and the vague but profound feeling for progress expressed by a teacher in these words :—

"The time is ripe for such an experiment."

Dr. Montessori's visit has roused great interest in her work—the populace is rebelling against the old dictatorial repressing methods, and it is felt that what is needed is not the human being who repeats mechanically what he remembers of that which was *told* him, but the human being developed in an atmosphere of love and sympathy to the highest point of his possibilities by his own efforts.

Let us glance at what is being done by free initiative. We see that the tendency is to oppose absolutely what makes for rigidity in the present municipal school—the school of the people. We see private schools with children ten in a class, who pass their time out-of-doors, getting from the open air and space that surround them the minimum of advantage, because in their state of idleness the spirit finds boredom and irritation for lack of intellectual food. Something like a new theory has sprung up—the free initiative of the individual teacher, who makes her own programmes and time-tables, considers and arranges according to her own ideas—is the creator, one may say, of the pedagogy that her class is to follow.

The pedagogical experiments of great men who were dear to the public having failed, this public sees no reason for holding to one name more than another; and in the present upset of existing schools, where a guiding instinct is wanting, it gives preference to individual initiative. All the more so, that the child, that precious treasure of humanity, continues to be *born* into the world, hale and lovely, strong and able to fight against errors of the school, of philosophy, of mother-love, of municipalities, . . . and

manages somehow to learn and to grow up into one of the many who long for an ideal school, in which growth is freed from oppression.

Thus on an error is based a theory—and that is that everything is done when we have swept away existing error; as if the actual scholastic order was to be merely replaced by a general vagueness in pedagogical principles. Of this vagueness in pedagogical principles, which ends by leaving child and teacher "free," some have taken the Montessori Method to be the embodiment.

There have been people who were suffering from this deep longing to see a reform in the schools, and who saw a Montessori class in Italy or Spain. A class of from thirty to forty children, all busy working intelligently on their own initiative, while the teacher, seated beside one of them, talked earnestly to him, imparting knowledge as from friend to friend. These people were convinced that the school they looked for was this, *because* the children grew and learned by themselves.

Thus it was that the mistaken idea arose. It was thought that the Montessori Method was a miraculous method for turning children into angels by leaving them to do as they pleased.

This ingenuous conviction has led to a state of real disorder in certain Montessori schools—a disorder which has just as ingenuously been respected as fostering progress.

But the authoress of the method has written books not only on the practice but also the theory of that method; it is a theory full of considerations as to what is meant by respect for the life and development of the child.

If in order to reform the schools to-day it sufficed to destroy the existing regulations, work of a purely negative nature would have value of progressive kind. But the new pedagogy is really an advance in human thought. It is the clear vision of the laws of the child's development, of the functioning

of his psychological existence, of his way of getting into touch with the outer world, of the conditions under which his inner functions—which are beyond our grasp or ken—can unfold freely and fully.

It seemed that a voice said: "The teachers are tired of trying to find ways of fixing the wandering attention of the child. They are tired of preaching to the child of his great duties, telling him it is his duty to learn. The children will not believe them. The struggle has come to be a weary one, but these sons of mankind—of man who is the discoverer of culture—must surely have, were it only through their heredity, the power to know, the joy in knowing. Yet, as we adults have no control over the functions of heart or lungs; as we can do no more for our children than place them in those conditions that are most favourable for the performing of such functions, so must it be for their intelligence. If instead of preaching to the child and forcing him, we were to find

out what these conditions may be, then indeed the intelligence would act magnificently as the organs of material life do."

It was as if by the hand of this woman of deep culture and loving heart a veil had been drawn aside. The child revealed his own inner life. He showed the mysterious laws that guide him to ripeness of growth. He exposed the errors which had been hiding his own inner beauty. A method was born indeed—servant to no name, to no school of philosophy, to no charity—merely the description of the working of natural functions, the achievement of such conditions as that working requires.

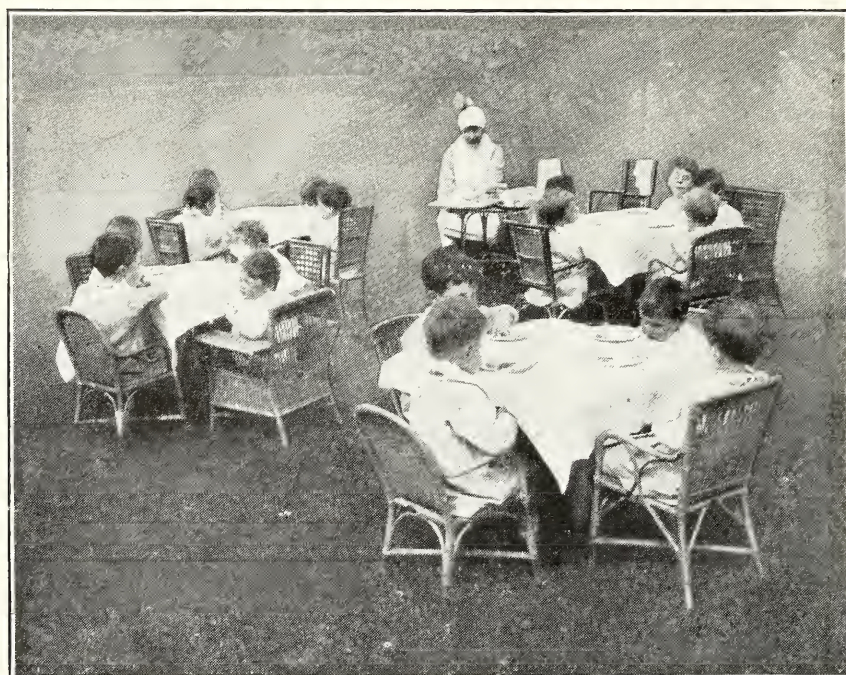
It is exact, this method; it proceeds accurately by clearly determined ways. The Montessori teacher who has studied the method

acquires by practice the power of "sensing" the inner working of the child's development and realising his state, and she can give him exactly the help he needs.

At the outset she finds herself surprised—confused even—not so much because the thing is difficult as because she is not yet capable of observing the child. The prevalent idea that order consists in sitting still or in performing uniform actions makes her dissatisfied with the child's free initiative. She ends by resigning herself to the child's movements and considering them as satisfactory, and is bewildered as to what is her own part in the work. She is hurried in

the lessons she gives, and naturally the want of earnest concentration on her part communicates itself to the child. Lastly, she understands her task. She no longer forces the child, but she no longer abandons him to himself. She guides him by lessons accurately given, and at last—after about two months as a rule—she realises,

to her wonder, the progress her children have made. There is order in their movements, they obey gladly, the exercises are done with great care. Then the teacher herself is satisfied, relieved from strain, because in each child the life-power is working regularly. Here she finds a child in need of "nourishment"; she gives him the lesson befitting his need, and leaves him to his new work. He will indeed presently go back to the work with which he is already familiar. But to-morrow he will again take up his new work for a time before returning to the old. Then it is that the fact occurs which has seemed so extraordinary to those who have watched it with deep emotion—a class of thirty children or more who move about doing intelligent work while the teacher is busy with one of their number.



TEA IN THE GARDEN AT "SUNSHINE HOUSE"

When children's schools were first called "gardens" it may be there was no thought of the liberty by which each plant is free to send out a fresh leaf to-day or to-morrow, to shoot forth a bud a little higher or a little lower from its stalk, to heighten the blush on one or another of its petals. And yet, what variety between rose and rose—and all roses!

And how little effort it has taken to leave free the life of these flowers! How much effort would have been needed to obtain from Nature in the growth of her blossoms such uniformity as prevails in a class where all the little minds are pulsing together, and their psychological life reacts in obedience to the daily regulations of the school curriculum!

The Montessori Method is certainly exact in its execution; and because it is exact it succeeds in having varied results from different children. It is just like a régime which suits every healthy temperament because it is hygienic; and yet leaves every frame to follow out its own development in beauty.

And as individual differences never surpass certain fixed limits which control the stature of each age in life, so it is for the intelligence. It is possible to fix what is the proper culture for every age. There is therefore no vagueness or uncertainty. There is a rule given by the child's own life. The number of children, the size of the school-room, the behaviour of the teacher, the

apparatus used. All these things are fixed and established by the needs of this life—a growing life, whose beauty is beyond any other.

Anna Maccheroni.

OOOO

ON Friday, June 25, the consideration of the financial resolution on which to base the Blind Persons Bill was resumed. The resolution set out: "That it is expedient to make

such provision out of moneys provided by Parliament as is required for paying such pensions to blind persons who have attained the age of fifty as, under the Old Age Pensions Acts, 1908 to 1919, they would be entitled to receive if they had attained the age of seventy, and any expenses incurred by any Government Department and the expenses incurred by the local pension committees up to an amount approved by the Treasury in connexion therewith in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to promote the welfare



BLIND BABY SQUIRRELS

of blind persons." There were many advocates of a larger allowance than 10s. a week, and also of a reduction or abolition of the age limit. Mr. Seddon urged that a pension of £1 a week would be justified by the joy it would bring to all blind persons in the country. Mr. Baldwin opined that the money could not be provided in the present state of the country's finances. Lady Astor added her voice to those that asked for a reconsideration of the whole provision under the bill. The resolution was carried by 110 votes to 18.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND EXAMINATION 1920

THE names of the eight successful candidates are as follows:—

Brown, Frances May (Honours: Hand Knitting); Brown, Jane (Honours: Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching); Harris, George Thomas (Honours: Arithmetic); Ludford, Violet Mary (Honours: Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching, Theory of Education, Hand Knitting); Murphy, Christopher; Nolan, John; Sinclair, Ena (Honours: Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Hand Knitting); Swayne, Alfred Burling (Honours: Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching).

OOOO

WE have very great pleasure in announcing that Lady Pearson (wife of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E.) has been created a Dame of the Order of the British Empire. Lady Pearson has been very actively associated with Sir Arthur in his work at St. Dunstan's. She is the honorary organiser of the National Institute's Blind Musicians' Concert Party, and has been instrumental in raising very large sums of money for the maintenance of St. Dunstan's. Lady Pearson was one of the first to take up women's war work in connection with the Queen's Work for Women Fund. Her untiring energy and devotion to her work have deservedly earned for her this recognition, and we beg to offer her our sincerest congratulations.

OOOO

MAY we be allowed to offer our congratulations to Dr. Arnold Lawson, M.D., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., who has been created a Knight Commander of the British Empire? The illustrious son of an illustrious father, who was surgeon oculist to Queen Victoria, Sir Arnold Lawson is the consulting ophthalmic surgeon to many hospitals. He is also the author of numerous important publications on the treatment of eye diseases, and a contributor to many medical papers. His splendid work in connection with St. Dunstan's Hostel has earned for him this well-deserved recognition.

OOOO

THINK truly and thy thoughts shall the world's famine feed.

H. Bonar.

GRAND ATHLETIC MEETING AND FAIR

UNDER the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Beatrice, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E. and S. Evershed, Esq., a Grand Athletic Meeting and Fair will be held at Gunnersbury Park, Acton (by kind permission of Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild), by the Blind Sports and Social Club (National Institute for the Blind) and the E. & V. Athletic Club, on Saturday, July 24th, 1920, at 2.30 p.m. Sports, dancing, concerts and all the fun of the fair. Admission by ticket: non-members, 1s.; members, 9d.; children, 6d.; obtainable from Mr. A. Bookey, National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, W.1.

For the benefit of those of our readers who may not know any details concerning the Sports and Social Club of the National Institute for the Blind, we would like to state briefly that the club was inaugurated in September, 1919, under the presidency of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E. The object of its inception was to promote the well-being of the staff of the Institute, both blind and sighted. There are rowing, swimming, and tennis sections, and frequent enjoyable country rambles take place during the summer. During the winter months meetings of a social nature take place, consisting of whist drives, dances, and concerts, which are much appreciated by members. Debates on a variety of interesting subjects were held in the Armitage Hall every other Thursday evening during the last winter sessions, and these debates were occasionally thrown open to the general public. Suggestions and practical hints, together with assistance and co-operation, are invited for the advancement of the club and of new sections. All communications should be addressed to Mr. A. Bookey (secretary of the club) at the National Institute for the Blind.

WANTED—LADY EDUCATOR OF THE BLIND, to take charge under a Superintendent of a School for the Blind in Montreal; 25 pupils from 7 to 24 years of age. Must be fully qualified to undertake elementary education and also have a knowledge of professions, handicrafts and the technical training of the blind. Salary £200 to £300 per annum, with board and residence.—Apply, stating age, length of service in work for the blind, full particulars of qualifications and copies of testimonials and certificates, "Montreal," c/o National Institute for the Blind, 224-8, Great Portland Street, W.1

BLIND GIRLS' COLLEGE

THE following letter has recently been issued to the Press by Sir Arthur Pearson:—

SIR,—Will you allow me to make known, through the medium of your influential columns, the establishment of a collegiate institution unlike any other in the world?

It is the Chorley Wood College for the Higher Education of Blind Girls, the equipment of which is nearing completion, and which will be ready to receive scholars in the middle of September. The very fine building, with its spacious grounds of more than forty acres, which has for some time past been in process of adaptation for the purposes of the college, was generously given to the council of the National Institute for the Blind by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Batty. It occupies a high and quite ideal situation in the midst of beautiful surroundings, and no pains have been spared to equip it in a manner which will bear comparison with the best secondary schools for sighted girls. Miss Phyllis Monk, a lady of high scholastic attainments and considerable experience, has been appointed principal, and has gathered round her a competent staff. This school will receive pupils from the age of seven years, and will be divided into sections according to the age of the scholars. The standard of education and of comfort will be of the first order. The fees have been placed upon a moderate basis, and scholarships will be available.

The council of the National Institute for the Blind have felt for some time past that there should be a sister institution to the Worcester College for the Higher Education of Blind Boys, for which they have recently made themselves responsible, of which I have the honour to be chairman, and with which my colleague, Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., has been intimately associated for forty years. The Chorley Wood College will give the parents and guardians of blind girls an opportunity of securing for them a first-class and specialized education suited to their needs and requirements, an opportunity which hitherto has not existed.

We now wish to hear from the parents or guardians of blind girls who would like to inquire further into this matter. Any who are interested, please communicate with Miss

Monk, at the offices of the National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR PEARSON,

President, National Institute for the Blind
224 Great Portland Street, London, W.
June 21st.

SCOTTISH BOARD OF HEALTH

APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR OF BLIND

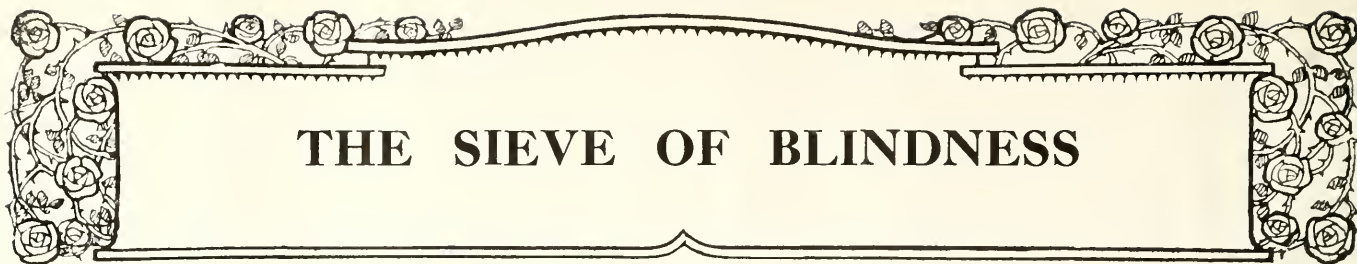
THE Scottish Board of Health have appointed Mr. W. M. Stone, Superintendent of the Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum and School, to act as Inspector of the Blind in Scotland during a period of six months commencing on 1st July, the Directors of the asylum having agreed, at the request of the Board, to release him from his duties there for the period stated. Mr. Stone is a well-known authority on all matters pertaining to the Blind, and is a member of the Scottish Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind.

oooo

THE BLIND IN INDIA

THE following paragraph recently appeared in the *Times of India*:—

"We have received a copy of the constitution and rules of the Blind Relief Association of Bombay. This excellent society is at present bending its efforts particularly towards reducing the incidence of infantile ophthalmia (*ophthalmia neonatorum*). In a pamphlet issued by the society and written by C. G. Henderson, I.C.S., it is stated that in England one-sixth of all the children in the Blind Schools became blind from this cause, while in the United States the figures of the totally blind as the result of infantile ophthalmia are given as 10,000. 'In India,' says the pamphlet, 'with its lakhs of blind, there must be thousands who have lost their sight from this cause, though we have no definite statistics on the subject.' Now there are certain precautions that must be taken immediately upon the birth of a child by which the disease may be largely prevented. It is to formulate schemes for the carrying out of these precautions and to invoke the help of local bodies, sanitary associations, health visitors, and workers in infant welfare that the Blind Relief Association is now embarking upon a propaganda campaign."



THE SIEVE OF BLINDNESS



HAVING read the article on "Reading for the Blind," which appeared in last month's *Beacon*, it may be of interest to our readers to hear what another writer has to say on the same subject. Writing in *To-Day* under the title of "The Sieve of Blindness," Mr. Sydney Walton says:—

"I am writing under (to me) novel circumstances. One eye has temporarily gone out of use. The light irritates it; and the tender autumn sunsets which it was wont to welcome, and the young, pungent beauty of a November morn, rising slowly from the scattered and desecrated leaves of summer, golden with decay, have lost one of those two sensitive agents that convey the outward image to the inner memory. And I may at once confess that the transient loss of the use of an eye brought me, tremblingly, face to face with the terrible thought of blindness. I saw the prison-house standing full in front, dark and threatening, I saw the shadow of Giant Despair on the meadow; felt, as it were, the ungentle pressure of his unyielding hand upon my arm as he dragged me to his dungeon. I remembered that Milton wrote his great epics in physical blindness (I make the distinction because to many it has seemed that his spiritual sight became thereby the more acute, and, to borrow his own phrase, feasted upon the fount of the sun itself), but to me the dread of blindness is deepened by its being the Land of No Books.

"The library, which daily grows more spacious around one, is cut off from the prisoner by a night which never gives place to morning; and the familiar print, with its pen and pencil emphasis-marks, where your thought ran forth to greet the author and give him the masonic pledge of friendship; the marginal notes, too, which are the foot-prints, so to speak, of your intellectual yesterdays (for nothing demonstrates your silent increase in mental stature so surely as notes you made ten years ago); these are to

be looked at no more. A lover of books to whom the outward form is dear as well as the mind that dwells potently within it, like the summer in the seed, how can he bear to be shut out from seeing the familiar faces of his silent friends? He will surrender the sun which shines in the firmament, if you will spare him this subtly latent sunlight that is mingled by the great chemist, Thought, with the ink of the written word. I begin to feel that, were blindness to be my lot, I could carry very few of my treasures into the island citadels of darkness. I must leave behind the sacred vessels of the sanctuary in my literary Jerusalem. Macaulay, to be sure, need have suffered little. His memory was vast as a library and as tenacious as the roots of an oak. You remember that it is said of him that during a storm in the Irish Channel, when the ship was much tossed by the winds and waves, he recited the whole of 'Paradise Lost.' Mrs. Hannah More, writing to inform Zachary Macaulay, Esq., of the mental progress of his son, makes note that the boy 'recited all 'Palestine' while we breakfasted, to our pious friend Mr. Whalley, at my desire, and did it incomparably.' That was a memory which would have lighted the dark halls of blindness with festive lamps and gladdened the forsaken corridors with song and music. But the most of us read hurriedly and ephemerally, retaining little of the nectar, and for us the house of darkness would be a drear and joyless dwelling-place.

"I am a believer in learning great poems by heart, and noble prose, too. Only so do we really possess the pearls of price: they become part of our heart's inalienable merchandise. I wish that teachers in our schools would cease from setting a poem to be conned by heart as a task and punishment to discipline the recalcitrant mind of boyhood, but rather would encourage such enrichment of memory as a joyous exercise and adventure to be practised and enjoyed through all the years of life. I am told that the music and majesty of a remembered verse from one of

the famous poets have at times worked wonders in the trenches, by nerving the whole powers of a man to the stern duty of climbing the parapet at dawn. You think of the soldier standing there, underground, awaiting the first twilight to break greyly over the field of desolation between him and the enemy. He knows that it may be the last day-spring which will visit him on earth. What are his thoughts at that moment, if he allows himself to think at all? As it were through a mist of the mind, he sees the faces of his kindred and his friends, and perhaps a sunny space or two, when life was at its best for him, reveals itself in the landscape he is leaving. And at these moments, it is said, snatches of song break in upon his mind. He remembers a noble verse he had learned in boyhood, and as he murmurs it over in the way Wolfe is said to have done Gray's 'Elegy,' as he climbed the heights of Quebec, his whole being is braced to a new poise and beauty. He is no longer in the trenches, he is walking beneath the dome of literature, and, as Emerson has pointed out, those vergers whose daily duty it is to serve in a great cathedral possess a reverent gait and bearing, so that you may recognise them by their stoop and stride in the busiest street. It is of the essence of letters to visit us with succour and light at the tensest hours of crisis.

At times there trembled through the strain
A sound like falling tears;
And then it rose and burst again
Like sudden clashing spears.

"Let us get by heart the best we know, so that it may become part of our being, and we shall be rich and undismayed even in blindness.

.....
"Perhaps blindness brings compensations. Lord Rosebery once told us that we read too much and think too little. Like the Athenians on Mars Hill we are ever straining at the leash to devour some new morsel of doctrine or excitement. Our eyes crowd the wharves of the mind with goodly argosies, but it is the bread eaten, not the grain stored, that adds to my stature. When the sun goes down behind the hills, the stars come out to crown the dying, garish day, and I sometimes think at the time of sun-setting, when in Chaucer's phrase the day is at a waning hour, that we learn most in darkness. The best letters in English literature are said to have been written by the mortally wounded. There is

such a thing as the sieve of blindness which sifts out the worthless from the imperishable and leaves in the mind an exquisite and enduring residue. I think it would be just to apply this sieve of approaching blindness as a principle of literary criticism, and to say of a book, except that it may be written expressly for ephemeral entertainment, 'In twelve months I shall be blind. Is this the kind of book that I want to take into exile with me? Will it cheer the darkness, giving warmth if it cannot give light? Very little luggage is allowed through the narrow gate; is this book of that fabled weight which eases a load and adds not a grain to its total?' Charles Lamb turned to an old book, so they say, whenever he heard of a new, but I would not be so ungallant towards the present high industry of letters, or I should have been denied the inspiration which the lately mourned Rupert Brooke, our gentle Lycidas of the war, brings to us, and I should have no handshake with Rudyard Kipling and Thomas Hardy. On the whole, I must say, the test is true. We would read less if the shadow of threatened blindness were over us, but our reading would be wiser and intenser, pleasing the prophet Ruskin, who taught that it is never the quantity, but the quality of our study which educates. Had all books to pass through the sieve of blindness, how many would remain in the final golden residue?

"What books would I take with me on that sea of night, books lovingly remembered in the heart like the harmonies the wind makes among the hills? That is a larger subject than the space a generous editor gives me. 'If you were blind, Jasper? There's a wind on the heath. Life is sweet, brother'—the breezes from across the purple moorlands of poetry would keep the soul in health. I wonder whether as a pleasant exercise, with a touch of pathos blended in it, my readers will send me a list of the books they would like to know by heart to take the sting out of blindness!

"One last word: in blindness we should learn poetry by the sound and not simply by the written word, and we should taste the divine magic of its melodies. Like the author of 'Kubla Khan,' we should build pleasure domes in air, could we but hear the song chanted among the mysteries of life. Blindness is not a Land of No Books. It is the kingdom in which the bibles of the human race are truly and deeply and spiritually known and loved."

BLIND SPORTSMEN.

THERE seems to be hardly any sport that the blind man nowadays is not ready and game to take part in, and a real good sporting part, too!

Sir Arthur Pearson is as fond of horse-riding as ever he was in the days when he could see, and many of the blinded officers join him in the enjoyment of this exhilarating exercise. Then officers and men alike are expert swimmers, and have distinguished themselves time and again as oarsmen. Worcester College shows an equal enthusiasm for river sports, and also holds a record for chess playing—Reed, of Worcester College, even beating the world-famed Capablanca.

Lately St. Dunstan's men have been astonishing us with their prowess with the football. When Molyneux, the Chelsea League goalkeeper, kept goal against two teams of blinded soldiers, the Knight's Rangers and the Durkonians, it was very hard to believe, as one watched, that the men were kicking a ball they could not see. Molyneux found himself hard put to it, such good shots were sent in, and at times he had to throw himself full length on the ground to save his goal. The man who was about to kick would bend down and touch

the ball, then go back a few paces and call "Where are you?" Then came the goalkeeper's shout, "Here!" and at once there was a forward run and a hard, confident drive from the blind player, a drive that often got home in a corner of the goal.

Putting the weight, tug-of war, and rope-climbing are other favourite sports at St. Dunstan's, and there, like the manly little blind boys at the Sheffield School, the men enjoy a round with the gloves.

Then just lately it has become known that there is a certain blinded V.C. officer who still plays golf. His wife goes on the course with him and his ball is teed for him by his caddy. When the blind player has his feet in position, the caddy rings a small bell just above the ball, so that its exact position may be determined. Touch guides him upon the green, and again, by the tinkle of the bell, the caddy indicates the precise location of the hole. This blind player is, so everyone says, an extraordinarily accurate putter,

and not long ago he enjoyed a very sweet triumph, for he did so well that he actually succeeded in beating a sighted brother officer.

It is all very marvellous, but not so very surprising to those who know the blind man well. Brains and grit count for much in the world of sport, and for brains and grit the man who has really "learnt to be blind" takes a remarkable lot of beating. S.B.P.



ALBERT AND JULIA OF "SUNSHINE HOUSE"

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

STRING quartettes—admirably played—formed the distinctive feature of the monthly concert on May 27th, the following being the artistes:—Miss Margery Bentwich, Miss Rebecca Clarke, Miss May Mukle, and Mr. E. W. Howard. The two vocalists were Mr. T. Watson, of Lady Pearson's Concert Party, and Mr. Bower, an American tenor. The former appeared to great advantage in "The Smugglers' Song," by Mullinar, and "An Interlude," by Easthope Martin, while the latter gave a very characteristic and expressive rendering of such songs as "Mother o' Mine," and "Give a Man a Horse he can Ride." Mr. Arthur Alexander provided many interesting piano solos, while he and Miss Muriel Atkins shared the duties of accompanist for the evening.

ON Tuesday, June 1st, Dr. H. G. Ley, organist of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, gave a very interesting organ recital. Among the items may be specially mentioned Cesar Franck's "Prelude, Fugue and Variation," Schumann's "Canon in B minor," and three very original and quite recent Preludes on Welsh Airs by Vaughan Williams, the last named including most realistic bell effects. Dr. Ley has very kindly undertaken to give another recital in the near future.

STRING QUARTETTES.—Mr. Howard who was responsible for the programme on May 27th, has very kindly promised to arrange for informal programmes of chamber music, and the first of these will be given in the Armitage Hall on Thursday, July 1st, at six o'clock. The music selected will occupy about an hour and all those interested are heartily welcomed to attend.

H. C. Warrilow.

OOOO

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

TUNERS.—Though at the moment things are very disturbed in the trade owing to the prolonged strike and the difficulties connected with the output of new instruments, it is to be hoped that conditions will substantially improve by the autumn. We shall, therefore, be glad to hear from all those who would like to take our tuning test; from those who wish to increase their

connections in the London area; and from any who have difficulty in getting action repairs satisfactorily executed.

CONCERT TICKETS.—We occasionally have tickets to spare for afternoon recitals and concerts in the Æolian Hall, etc., and should therefore be glad to hear of any blind musicians who would like to avail themselves of such opportunities.

MUSIC TRANSCRIBING.—The work of getting music promptly transcribed into Braille is now being undertaken in the Music Department at the National Institute, the charge being sixpence per large sheet and fourpence per intermediate sheet. Orders can also be dealt with for transcribing Braille into staff, a reduced charge being made for music by blind composers. *H. C. Warrilow.*

BLINDNESS

HE could not see and ever tapped his way

Along the road, but on each sunny day
He turned towards the lane that led to where
The cowslips grew in early spring, and there
With gentle hand would touch their faces
sweet

Or wander on to where the lovers meet
On moonlight nights. His way then slowly
find

Back to the world where all men called him
Blind.

With clear blue eyes the other saw his way
About the world, and every Saturday
Counted his gains, nor went to bed
Without some scheme for getting right ahead
Of all the rest; his course so clearly set
That year by year he richer grew, and yet—
Yet of the two, he always seemed more blind,
Who had two eyes and could his own way
find.

Anne Blair Rawsthorne.

(In "The New Witness.")

OOOO

THE Ascot Ball, which was held at the Albert Hall on June 16th in aid of the After-Care Fund for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, was a great success. Society attended in force, both from the fashionable race meeting on the Heath and from the International Horse Show at Olympia. The ball was not exclusively a costume revel, though a good proportion of those present wore dresses either magnificent or bizarre.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—NO. 44.

AUGUST, 1920.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL



OF late years a great impetus has been given to the very important question of the Higher Education of the Blind. As was mentioned briefly in the June number of the *Beacon*, an important meeting was held on Friday, May 14, at the National Institute for the Blind, London, where a really representative party of educators of the blind met together to discuss the question of the provision of up-to-date educational books. The importance of a wide selection of educational works needs little emphasis here. To place blind children on a level with sighted children as regards educational training is an ideal that must always be held in view, and to cater for the needs and tastes of all is a task which calls for no little discrimination. That the matter is one which has engaged the careful attention of the educators will be apparent to all who scan the list of books recommended at the aforementioned conference—books which the National Institute for the Blind proposes to publish. Amongst these will be found—

Class Reading Books.

Realms of Gold Literary Readers. 6 Books. (Educational Publishing Co., Cardiff.)
The British Citizen; by J. R. Peddie, M.B.E., M.A. (Blackie & Sons, Ltd.) Grade II. Fully contracted.
Peter Rabbit and Other Tales; by Beatrix Potter. (F. Warne and Co.) Grade I.
The New World English Course. (Collins Clear Type Series.)
Tales from Shakespeare's Plays, as extracted from the Children's Encyclopædia. Fully contracted. Grade II.

English Literature.

The New World Series of Literature; Edited by H. C. Wyld. (Collins.)

A Brief History of English Literature; by E. M. Tappan, Ph.D. (George G. Harrap and Co.)

[The book to be used as a Story of English Literature has yet to be selected, but the Secretary-General of the Institute has suggested this work.]

Poetry.

The New World Poetry Series: "The Way of Poetry"; by John Drinkwater; and an "Anthology of Verse." (Collins.)

Selections from the Poems of Tennyson; by George and Hadlow. (Macmillan.)

Poems of Shelley; Selected and arranged for Schools; by E. E. Speight. (Jack.)

Poems of Wordsworth; selected by C. L. Thomson. (Cambridge University Press.)

History.

New World History Series; edited by Bernard Lord Manning, M.A. (Collins.)

Piers Plowman History.

[The remainder of the series already published by the Institute.]

Geography.

The New World Geography Series; by T. W. F. Parkinson, M.Sc.; "Round the World"; "England and Wales"; "The Empire Beyond the Seas."

Round the World on a Wheel; by Foster Fraser.

Biography.

"The Children's Heroes"; Selections from. (Jack.)

Mathematics.

Algebraical Exercises and Examination Papers to accompany "Elementary Algebra"; by Hall and Knight. (Macmillan.)

Continuous Readers.

Heroes of Industry.

Shackleton in the Antarctic.

Abridgments of Selected Stories by Scott, Dickens, and other standard authors. (Jack.)

[The publication of the full works of these authors to be continued, as the selections are for school use only.]

From Oliver and Boyd's Continuous Readers—"Coral Island," by Ballantyne—Story of Scottish Independence; Story of Prince Charlie; Scott's Tales of a Grandfather; Story of Mary Queen of Scots; Tales from the Norse; Masterman Ready.

Nature Study.

The Kingsway Book of Nature Study; by Joan Kennedy. (Evans Bros.)

It was also recommended that the following books should be reprinted:—Nesfield's Outline of English

Grammar ; Hall and Steven's Euclid with Diagrams ; Henri Bue's Small Grammar ; History of Greece, by C. A. Fyffe, M.A. ; History of Rome, by Rev. Creighton, M.A.

The children who have at their disposal the above-mentioned volumes may indeed be considered fortunate, for the books are of such a nature as materially to assist their general education, while they will prove invaluable to those who wish to specialise as teachers. And we would here express the hope that the blind may come more and more to fill important positions as teachers and educators. Already we see blind professors lecturing and teaching with unqualified success, and we call to mind a blind lecturer on Modern History and a blind professor of Old French at two of our well-known universities.

We repeat, therefore, that it is of the utmost importance that the books chosen for the various stages of training should be the right ones, and, above all, that they should be so employed as to leave no gaps in the children's education. The lives of the blind children would indeed be dark without these silent friends and guides, for they are the "Open Sesame" to wide fields of happy thought and pleasant occupation. And what could be more desirable than that some of these little ones should in their turn become educators of blind children, and that the future generation should reap the benefit of the work now being taken in hand.

* * *

SPEECH DAY AT WORCESTER COLLEGE.

On Wednesday, July 14, 1920, the annual prize-giving was held at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester. The last few months have witnessed many improvements at the College, which have long been wanted. The National Institute for the Blind, whose President (Sir Arthur Pearson) is also Chairman of the governing body of the College, has presented a house and grounds known as "The Gables," adjoining the College, to become the Headmaster's house. This acquisition will enable the College to receive ten additional students.

The prize-giving took place in the gymnasium attached to the College, the chair being taken by Sir Arthur Pearson, the distribution of the prizes being very kindly undertaken by F. S. Preston, Esq., the Headmaster of Malvern College. In his address, Sir Arthur Pearson began by saying that it was with regret that he had to announce that Sir

Washington Ranger, himself the most distinguished "old boy," who had been the Honorary Secretary for forty years, had felt that he would have to hand in his resignation owing to the fact that he considered that he ought to give way to a younger and more energetic man. It was, therefore, with feelings of great regret that the Governors felt that they must bow to the inevitable. The Chairman was pleased to be able to announce that Sir Washington had consented to accept the office of Vice-President to the College, and would still continue to help them all in any other way possible. Mr. G. F. Mowatt, who was well-known to them all as a busy man of affairs, who always found time to do more the more that was asked of him, had kindly offered to be Sir Washington's successor. To people handicapped such as the Worcester boys, it was very fitting that an energetic man such as Mr. Mowatt, himself handicapped by loss of sight, should accept this high office. The improvements recently effected, which had led the staff to be strengthened and better accommodation to be provided for the staff and students, meant that the College would bear comparison with any in the kingdom. There were then thirty-six scholars in residence, and it was hoped that there would be forty next term. A new boat-house was being built on the Severn, and a swimming-bath was to be constructed at the College itself. Rowing and swimming were both ideal exercises for blind people, and at the regatta on Friday and Saturday a crew from St. Dunstan's was to compete against the boys. The commercial side of the school was being developed. The fact that people could not see particularly well need not be a bar to success in commercial life, though naturally the difficulties to be overcome by blind boys was greater than for those who lost their sight later in life. Sir Arthur went on to make some interesting remarks as to what had been accomplished in business by some of the St. Dunstan's men, and said that he felt sure that the recital of these achievements would be a great stimulus to the boys.

Mr. Preston then presented the prizes, after which Mr. G. C. Brown (headmaster) presented his report to the company, which was in every way satisfactory and showed clearly the great strides that had been made in the matter of higher education. He then asked Mr. Preston, who had so kindly come from his duties at Malvern College at a very busy time to present the prizes, to address them.

Mr. Preston gave a most stimulating and instructive speech. He began by offering his meed of praise to the way in which the school had improved, and remarked that it was an encouraging sign of the times that an assembly of people were ready to hear a school-master make a speech. He called attention to the fact that although the aim of education might very well be that of obtaining the largest living wage, it was important to remember that it was not the only object. There was a very large portion of our lives not spent in work, so that it was important that our hours of leisure should be employed in the best possible way. The better educated a man was the better he was equipped for leisure. It was very important that the line between work and out of school should not be made too definite. The old idea that one's school consisted of recreation with unpleasant intervals of work was, he hoped, passing away. We did not develop our forces merely to beat someone else, but to develop resources within ourselves. The right use of memory training was very important. In the past he thought there had been too much reliance on memory at the expense of our understanding. We ought only to assimilate those thoughts and ideas which would really be helpful to us. The value of discipline was to make a man appreciate when he should follow and when he should lead. The untrained mind would always be subordinate to the trained mind, while the beginning and end of discipline was unselfishness. We could not be entirely free and do exactly what we liked at the expense of communal interests.

A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Preston for his address was passed, and the day was brought to a close by tea on the College lawn and an inspection of the classrooms by the visitors.



BLINDED AUSTRALIAN ABOUT TO START FOR A TRIP IN AN AEROPLANE.

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

THE concert on Thursday, June 24th, brought the present season's monthly series to an end. The artistes were Miss Margaret Forde (of Lady Pearson's Concert Party), Miss Kontorovitch, Mr. Percival Garratt, and Mr. Spanner, and an interesting programme was provided.

Miss Forde has an excellent soprano voice. Mr. Garratt, who has played several times at

these concerts, is always welcome, both as an accompanist and soloist, while Miss Kontorovitch, a talented Russian violinist, delighted the audience by the warmth, delicacy and flexibility of her playing. Mr. Spanner's solos showed the soft stops of the organ to advantage, and he gave a very convincing rendering of Bach's Choral Prelude "Sleepers, Wake!" The whole series of concerts has been thoroughly enjoyed, and there has been an excellent attendance throughout.

The informal Chamber Music Concert arranged by Mr. Howard for July 1st was much appreciated, and other programmes, to include string quartets and trios, will be given regularly during the winter.

The monthly concerts will be resumed in October.

H. C. W.

oooo

IF thou art blest,
Then let the sunshine of thy gladness rest
On the dark edges of each cloud that lies
Black on thy brother's skies.

oooo

CHEERFULNESS is an excellent wearing quality. It has been called "the bright weather of the heart."

S. Smiles.

ROYAL VISIT TO NEWINGTON HOUSE



At this time it is not necessary to emphasise the interest which is taken by the King and Queen in those who have suffered in service with the fighting forces of the Crown during the late war. Repeatedly their Majesties have manifested their sympathy with and interest in those who have been unfortunately deprived of some of their faculties, and it was quite in accordance with that sympathy that one item of the official programme should be devoted to a visit to Newington House, which is the national institution for Scottish blinded soldiers and sailors. Their Majesties showed sympathetic interest in the men and their work, and congratulated one and all upon the efforts which they were making so cheerfully and pluckily.

When they arrived at Newington House they were received by a waiting crowd on the roads with cheering, and were welcomed at the entrance by the Marquis of Linlithgow, the Rev. Dr. Thos. Burns (chairman of the institution), Major Williamson, the superintendent of the house, and others, and after several presentations they proceeded to the workshops, where the men were engaged in their ordinary occupations. The King and Queen walked round the room, watching with curiosity and appreciation the men as they dexterously manipulated the materials with which they were working, inquiring interestedly about the details of the operations, and expressing amazement at the manner in which these sightless men had assimilated their training. To most of them the King expressed a word of cheer and comfort, while the Queen, with characteristic enthusiasm, showed her appreciation of the institution by purchasing two mats and two baskets from the workshop—reminding the matron, before departing, to ensure that the articles were forwarded to her to London. At the close of the inspection of the workshop

their Majesties, who shook hands with the blinded workers, stood in the centre of a circle of them to furnish a memento of their visit in the form of a photograph taken by flashlight. By His Majesty's express desire, the sixty-seven blinded men who were within the grounds of the institution—including many who had passed through the training school of the institution—were paraded before him, and Dr. Burns took occasion to present to the King an illuminated book dealing with the history of Newington House and the industries carried on therein, a gift from the ex-Service men in training there. Accepting the gift, His Majesty expressed the pleasure which the Queen and himself had in their visit. Subsequently their Majesties inspected the various apartments of the house and signed the visitors' book.—*Glasgow Herald*.

BLIND TEACHERS FOR THE BLIND

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON, who presided at the sixty-fourth annual meeting of the Home-Teaching Society for the Blind, held at the National Institute for the Blind, said that during the last year forty-four blind teachers had been employed by the Society and these had visited over 5,000 blind people, teaching them reading, knitting, instrument repairing, and other useful occupations.

oooo

OFFICERS' FETE

CHELSEA Pensioners and blind men from St. Dunstan's formed a guard of honour for Prince Arthur of Connaught when he opened the garden fête of the Officers' Association at the Botanical Gardens.

There was a large attendance. Plenty of cover from the rain and many side shows were provided.

WILTS COUNTY COMMITTEE

AT the first meeting of the Wilts County Committee for the Care of the Blind, in connection with the Western Counties' Association, mention was made of the fact that the population of the county of Wiltshire was 286,000. On the register of blind persons in that county were the names of 295 persons—155 males and 140 females. Of this number, three were under five years of age, sixteen between the ages of five and sixteen, twenty-one between sixteen and twenty-one, seventy between twenty-one and fifty, sixty-four between fifty and seventy, and ninety-one over seventy years of age. There was not a great deal of absolute unemployment among the blind in Wilts, and the chief cause of blindness was cataract—possibly more so than in any other county.

OOOO

IN presenting the annual report of the Leeds Incorporated Institution for the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb, on June 22nd, Mr. Harvey, one of the hon. secretaries, explained that, owing to a rearrangement of the financial year by the Ministry of Health, the period under review was only for nine months of the 1919-20 year. During this period the turnover of the trading department amounted to £17,712—as compared with £19,736 for the full twelve months of 1918-19. Further advances in salaries and wages had been made during the year, and the amounts disbursed on behalf of or to the blind included £4,202 in wages, gratuities, and allowances, and over £500 in pensions and relief to blind and deaf persons who were unable to work. The trading account showed a net loss on the nine months of £670. The number of blind and deaf workers in the trading departments was eighty-one, of whom the majority were engaged in making brushes, baskets and mats.

OOOO

BLIND MISSIONER'S DEATH

WM. J. DAY, Blackburn's blind missionary, whose sudden death in a Bolton street was reported recently, was brother-in-law of Dr. Grace, the well-known cricketer. Mr. Day lost his sight through an accident whilst a newspaper reporter.

OOOO

TO be content with what we possess is the greatest and most secure of riches. *Cicero.*

THE CARE OF BLIND WOMEN

THE Committee of the Clifton Home for Blind Women announce that their establishment in Gordon Road has been taken over by the National Institute for the Blind. Owing to the rise in the cost of living the Committee of the Home had found it impossible of late years to make ends meet, and but for the generosity of the National Institute, which, in the spring of this year, made the home a handsome grant of £300 to tide it over a very serious financial crisis, it would have been compelled before very long to close its doors. That this has been prevented by the grant and by the taking over of the home, is a source of much satisfaction, both to the Committee and to the present inmates, who are now assured of a comfortable home as long as their need continues.

OOOO

THE Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind, London, would be glad to have particulars of the present rates of postage on embossed literature (Braille, Moon or other embossed type) in all parts of the world. He wishes to ascertain whether there is free or reduced postage on embossed literature in each particular country itself and also between that country and other countries. He would further be glad to have a list of the rates of national and international postage current in each country. The President of the Institute, Sir Arthur Pearson, wishes to approach the International Postal Convention, which will take place in the autumn of this year, with the object of effecting a further reduction on the postage of embossed literature. All available information should be addressed immediately to the Secretary-General, National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1.

OOOO

BLIND ORGANIST'S LONG SERVICE

MR. L. H. ASHFORD commenced his duties as organist at the parish church of Rushmere St. Andrew, Ipswich, on Sunday, July 7th, 1895, and, despite his blindness, still continues in office. It was recently suggested that this record of twenty-five years' service should not be allowed to pass without some practical recognition, and on Sunday, after evening service, Mr. Ashford was handed a cheque for £28, together with a brown cow-hide brief bag and an illuminated address.

ESSAY ON THE MOST HELPFUL FEATURE OF THE PELMAN COURSE



THE REV. W. E. LLOYD, M.A., one of the Chaplains to the National Institute for the Blind, who has recently completed the free Pelman Course of Mind and Memory Training for the Blind, has sent us an essay which he submitted to the Pelman Institute. He thinks that his experience may encourage others to take up the course in question:—

ESSAY ON THE MOST HELPFUL FEATURE OF THE PELMAN COURSE

The Pelman System of Mind and Memory Training is designed to meet the needs of people of very varying interests and temperaments, and therefore opinions will differ very considerably as to which of its features is the most helpful. The system really forms one complete and coherent whole, and in practice the elimination of any one of its parts would seriously impair the value of every other part.

Having only just completed the course, I believe that the advantages to be derived from the application of its methods will become more and more apparent as time goes on, provided that a continuous and conscientious effort is made to assimilate and practise them. However, I can assert without hesitation that even at this early stage I am deriving very great benefits from the system, and in my own case I should say that its most helpful feature is a strong emphasis on the power of "mind control." When I look back upon the condition of my mind before I entered upon this course of study it seems to me to have been in a very unorganised and very unsatisfactory condition, though I certainly had no realisation of this at the time.

Pelmanism has helped me to understand that while control of the mind is quite as essential as control of the body, it is also equally possible when the right methods are known and applied. I have been taught to regard my mind like my body as an instrument which has to be brought into subjection

by my will and trained to serve my own purposes. The mind is more difficult to control than the body, because it seems to possess greater independence of action and will not consent to remain passive, and unless the will keeps a tight hold it will work independently of the will and gradually pass very largely beyond its control. The logical conclusion of such independent working of the mind would seem to be insanity, and I should suppose that Pelmanism might be a very valuable preventative against this if adopted in time. Since beginning the course I have felt my mind coming more and more under the control of the will, and the results have been in every way satisfactory. (a) My tendency to insomnia has been cured and my physical health greatly improved. This, of course, has been largely due to the Eustace Miles exercises, but also to the fact that I am cultivating the power of making my mind, by means of auto-suggestion, the physician of my body, and Dr. Mind is certainly the greatest of all doctors. (b) "Worry" is playing a less prominent part in my life, as I am gradually becoming the master of my thoughts, instead of allowing my thoughts to be the masters of me. (c) The expansion of the mental faculties which this control of the mind is slowly but surely effecting, is giving me a far more hopeful and more optimistic outlook upon life, for I have been made to realise that my mental resources are far greater than I had ever imagined, and I have been shown a scientific method by which they may be developed. The fact that Pelmanism does so much towards developing the control of the mind is in my judgment its most helpful feature. The best recommendation for Pelmanism is Pelmanism.

OOOO

IF one really has a touch of the sacred fire in one's veins, one remains a student all one's life, not of books, which are a poor resource, but of the great inexhaustible school of actual things. *J. H. Fabre.*

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON VISITS CHELTENHAM

(From the "Cheltenham and County Looker-On")



SUFFOLK HALL, one of the stately houses of Cheltenham, has been converted into a hostel or holiday home for "old boys" of St. Dunstan's. The house—which was a V.A.D. hospital during the war—was given to Sir Arthur by Mr. W. A. Bankier, who lived at Smeaton House during the war and, it is believed, at one time contemplated residing at Suffolk Hall.

Sir Arthur Pearson's splendid organisation for the blinded soldiers ensures that no man who has been through St. Dunstan's Home and is now filling some useful place in our social system, shall ever be left friendless. A perfect "After-Care" organisation has been created, and any blind ex-soldier who is found needing assistance or who would be better for the rest and comfort which a stay in one of these hostels may bring, will be received at St. Dunstan's, Cheltenham, or at one of the other St. Dunstan's Hostels which are now open, or to be opened, for the purpose. There is one at Brighton, another at Ilkley, and a third is to be at North Berwick, and a considerably larger one for all invalids at Hastings. There is room at Cheltenham for thirty visitors, and as, of course, the home caters for all the St. Dunstan's men who may be in the west country or the Midland Counties this will probably not be too much accommodation. To provide for this number considerable enlargements have been made, and because the home is now practically finished—the builders are still constructing some additional accommodation in the garden—and most beautifully furnished, Sir Arthur Pearson came to Cheltenham and attended a kind of house-warming.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bankier, and Sir Arthur Pearson was accompanied by another titled victor over blindness, Sir Washington Ranger, who is Chairman of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind and also by Mr. H. Stainsby, Secretary to the National Institute

for the Blind, and Mr. Le Breton Martin, General Editor of the N.I.B. While Sir Arthur only lost his sight seven years ago—when he was too old, as he jocularly said, to make a really good blind man—Sir Washington has been blind nearly all his life. The visitors inspected the cheerful wards, baths, dining room, etc., and in the splendid lounge, carpeted by the Cheltenham Committee of Lady War Workers, heard the founder of St. Dunstan's.

Sir Arthur Pearson expressed his sincere thanks on behalf of himself, his committee and the men of St. Dunstan's, to Mr. W. A. Bankier for his great generosity in presenting them with that beautiful house and, in addition, with the sum of £1,500 towards the cost of the alterations and additions which were desirable. Suffolk Hall was not merely a handsome mansion, but it was beautifully situated in a town that had very rightly been called a Garden of Eden. With the exception of special gifts from people specially interested in that hostel the remainder of the expense of the furnishing and fitting up of the place had been defrayed from a sum of £30,000 placed at his disposal by the administrators of the National Services Fund, who were represented that afternoon by Col. de Putron. This money represented a grant from a national fund formed by pooling the profits made in the canteens in the military camps. Twelve thousand of the £30,000 had been allotted to St. Dunstan's Hostel, Cheltenham, and the remainder would be expended on the provision at North Berwick of a similar home for old boys of St. Dunstan's living in Scotland.

"We are not," said Sir Arthur, "in the least degree modest about St. Dunstan's. It is a wonderful place and we are very proud of it. The really wonderful thing, however, about it is not the men who are there but the 1,200 who have left it and are earning their livelihood in various parts of the country, to say nothing of 250 in the colonies. Those 1,200 men are happy, cheery

and bright and above all successful citizens—successful to a degree that has hitherto been considered incompatible with loss of sight—for the simple reason that loss of sight has been regarded in an entirely different way at St. Dunstan's. It is a simple secret—ridiculously simple. It is purely a question of refusing to admit you're beaten; purely and simply a question of washing out that generally held idea of looking upon blindness as a calamity and of accepting it instead as an opportunity. When I lost my sight seven years ago I was too old to make a really good blind man (laughter), but, as I was in a position to take my leisure, I thought I would interest myself in other people similarly handicapped. I found that the first thing to be done was to get rid of the word 'affliction.' The main thing is to insist upon normality. I say to the fellows who come to St. Dunstan's—'You are not coming to an institution for the blind—it is not an institution in the first place, and, in the second place, we are not blind people: we don't believe in them, we are just normal people who can't see.' And once a fellow gets into that frame of mind the battle is half over; his good sporting British nature comes to the front and all is well."

Sir Arthur went on to narrate the kind of sports the men of St. Dunstan's indulge in. They run races by holding in the hand a ring through which a cord runs, keeping them in their course. But he does not believe, while adopting many ingenious devices to make things possible which otherwise could not be done, in attempting the fantastic and the impossible. Cricket, for instance, is not played at St. Dunstan's with a ball with a bell in the centre of it. The common idea, formed from contemplating the poor, dejected, hopeless creature one used to see at the street corner with a tin mug, that a blind man must become a semi-imbecile, is utterly discounted. Perhaps the best description ever given of St. Dunstan's was that it is a "Home of Happiness," where men who have been wounded "and something more" have been dragged back from the black morass of despair and had their feet set on the firm paths of the Garden of Endeavour which lead forth to the broad highway of the Normal Life.

The founder of St. Dunstan's went on to tell his audience of the wonderful things that are taught and quickly learned at St. Dunstan's. A basket-maker from Evesham was

in the room who had learned his trade in a few months and could now make baskets with anyone; a St. Dunstan's masseur is just establishing himself in Cheltenham, having passed the strictest examinations in anatomy, pathology, etc.; they had produced carpenters, shorthand writers, telephonists, poultry farmers, cobblers. As the most interesting case of all, perhaps, Sir Arthur narrated the story of Mr. Wright, of Messrs. Wright and Barratt, who installed the heating system at St. Dunstan's, Cheltenham. He was blinded in the war, and having been aforesaid skilled at planning heating systems, made himself, by training at St. Dunstan's, useful to his old firm in their office. In a short time he was back doing his old work, and is now, with a partner, in business for himself, and has contracts in hand representing £40,000. Their stay at St. Dunstan's was to many the happiest time of their lives, and an inscription to be seen on a garden seat there was true of the place as a whole—

The kiss of the Sun for pardon,
The Song of the birds for mirth,
You are nearer to God in a Garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

Later on Sir Arthur Pearson amused the company very much with some hints to people who can see as to how they should treat men who are blind, based on his personal experience. By all means interest them in their surroundings. When first he became unable to see he was disinclined to go to any place that he had not known when he could see, but, having had places described to him, he had, in many cases, a clearer mental picture of them than of some places he formerly saw.

Sir Washington Ranger spoke very interestingly, attributing to the efforts of Sir Arthur Pearson the entirely changed outlook, not merely in England but all over the world, towards blindness. The old idea of blindness, which St. Dunstan's had banished for ever, was to centre the attention of the individual upon the handicap from which he suffered and to ignore altogether the residue of faculties and powers left to him. That hopeless aspect led to all sorts of erroneous results and all sorts of improper treatment of blind men. Two epigrams from Sir Washington's speech well worth recording were these:—"A blind man is a sighted man minus his sight." "The best heritage of the blind is the good will of the sighted."

THE PERFECT GENTLEMAN

LORD JUSTICE YOUNGER, addressing the pupils of the London Society's School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, last month, said that people must not think that it was only the politicians and the folk in high places who were responsible for the war. Every boy and girl now growing up could do his or her part to keep the peace of the world. The world would be a happy place if every boy and girl determined to be a man or a woman after Thackeray's ideal in "The Four Georges." He wrote to be a perfect gentleman was "to have lofty aims, to lead a pure life, to keep your honour virgin, to have the esteem of your fellows, and the love of your friends, to bear good fortune meekly, to suffer evil with constancy, and through evil or good to maintain truth always."

Mr. T. P. Hobson, who presided, said that the Society hoped to be able to extend its work when the new workshops were ready in October. They were anxious to find employment not only for all their pupils after school life, but for a great many of the blind of North-West London who were unemployed owing to lack of workshops.

OOOO

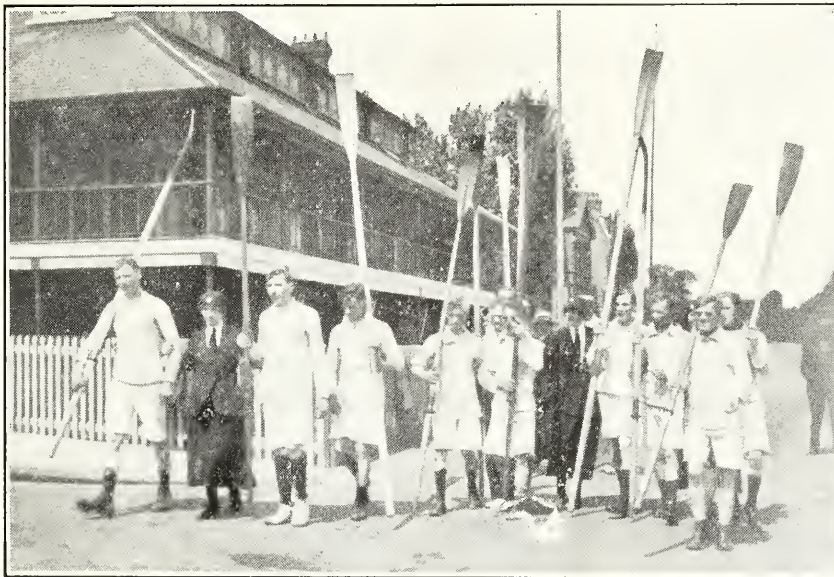
ENQUIRY at the Liverpool Workshops for the Blind shows that last year's record figure of £65,743 realised on gross sales was not entirely unexpected. The work has received an impetus as a result of the war, and in addition the careful organisation and building up that have gone on in past years are bearing fruit. Goods are sent as far as West Africa, to Egypt, and even to China! This wide-spread demand is the finest advertisement for the quality of the work done in the workshops.

BLINDED SOLDIERS' REGATTA AT PUTNEY

THE second St. Dunstan's Regatta of the season took place at Putney on July 13th. The blinded soldiers have shown many times their prowess at all sports, but rowing seems to be the particular favourite, if one can judge from the great number of entries for this regatta and the enormous advance shown in the standard of rowing.

Twenty-one events were arranged, several being for special cups. Features of special Services Club, and of the people of Cheltenham interest were the one-armed pair oars race

and the single sculls race for one-legged men. There were also several interesting old boys' events, and the whole regatta was a great success from every point of view. Special praise must be given to the V.A.D. ladies who steered the craft, and who take such an active interest in all



A GROUP OF ST. DUNSTAN'S OARSMEN

the sports of the blinded heroes.

OOOO

AT his own earnest request, and with much reluctance, the Board of Management of the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind, has accepted Mr. Frederick Priestman's resignation of the office of chairman of the institution. The notable part Mr. Priestman has played in movements for the welfare of the blind is well-known. For many years the work has been one of the chief interests of his life. He has been chairman of the institution for nearly forty years. Health considerations have compelled him to retire. The Board has elected to succeed him another well-tried friend of the blind, in the person of Mr. W. H. Tate, who has been associated with the Bradford institution for thirty-seven years.

BLIND WOMEN WEAVERS



MUCH interest has been aroused during the last few years in the development of industries for the blind, owing to the numerous cases among men that have arisen during the war. An older movement, and one for women, was set on foot as long ago as 1893 by the founding of the Barclay Institute and Home at Brighton, where women and girls, who would otherwise be destitute or supported out of the rates in parochial Union Houses, are cared for and trained to become self-supporting as handloom weavers and machine knitters.

Women already blind or certain to become so were received and taught from the age of sixteen years. The scheme developed further when it was found that to train a girl really well and efficiently an earlier age must be taken. Children who were workhouse cases and most of those who came from low-class surroundings were so utterly without initiative or habits of discipline that they proved unsatisfactory in all ways.

Hence the formation of the elementary department of the Barclay Home for girls from five to sixteen years of age. Next comes the technical school for girls over sixteen; thirdly, the workshop for trained workers transferred from the technical school; and lastly, an annexe for untrainable blind women.

The subjects in which instruction is given are: Braille reading and writing, music, type-writing, Swedish drill and physical exercises. There is special teaching for those who have partial sight.

Girls under sixteen are received for a charge of £56 per annum, and the same for the older cases, except where a grant of £7 is received for technical training.

The Home was founded by the Hon. Mrs. Champion, with a sum left for the purpose by the late Mr. Alexander Barclay. It occupies four houses in Wellington Road. In 1914 a workshop was opened to enable former inmates who live in Brighton to earn their livelihood. A laundry has been built in one of the gardens, where the washing for the

Home is carried on, some of it by blind inmates.

In 1905 the Barclay London Workshop was started, its present address being 21 Crawford Street, out of Baker Street; this is to give employment to such girls and women, trained at Brighton, who, having friends or relations in town, are desirous of living there. Here two of the industries taught are carried on, namely handloom weaving and machine knitting of hosiery. At Brighton sweaters and jumpers are also knitted and a supply sent to the London shop. Other industries taught at the parent institute are basket making, chair caning and machine sewing.

The Crawford Street shop is well worth a visit, and visitors are welcomed. In the shop delightful fabrics can be bought in any quantity; these consist of tweeds of varying weights and a charming range of colours and mixtures, hopsacks and a variety of linen and cotton material, which last include apron material, table-cloths and napkins and square cotton cloth for embroidery. Articles are made up at the shop by workers who have their sight, many of these things are of a more trifling kind and make a tempting display, such as hat-bands, cushions, covers, bags and mats.

The three workshops at the back of and above the shop are dedicated to the weavers and knitters, and it is difficult to believe that the workers have not their full sight. A girl may be seen laying the warp with unerring accuracy on a loom; another preparing the thread in lengths for the weavers' use, and the actual workers, seated at the looms, may be watched with admiration as they deftly work in the woof of woollen or linen.

The stuffs, especially the woollen materials, are fascinating, and there is a wide choice of tweeds, hopsacks and serges. The hopsacks are always woven in the natural, undyed shade and can be dyed to taste in the piece. The prices are moderate and any quantity can be ordered and purchased. Excellent knitted socks are only 3s. 9d. per pair, stockings, 6s.

At the Brighton House, according to the 1919 report, there are eighty-three inmates, forty-eight of whom are children under sixteen. There are seventeen looms, twelve circular knitting machines, and six flat ones in use.

At the London workshop there are twenty women and girls regularly employed and, so far, no applicant for work there who has been passed at Brighton for efficiency has yet been refused work.

The whole of the management is in the hands of a committee of which Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyle, is President. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. J. Wagg, is always willing to give particulars as to the working of this most interesting and valuable institution.—*The Queen*.

OOOO

BOOKS ADDED TO MESSAGE LIBRARY

The following recent additions have been made to the Message Library:—

Mental Personality: its integration and disintegration; by Harry Campbell (pocket edition).

Instinct and Hysteria; by V. T. Carruthers (pocket edition).

Treatment of Fractures by Massage; by Agnes Keen (pocket edition).

Neurasthenia, an essay on the treatment of certain forms of; by S. Weir Mitchell. In 3 vols. (pocket edition).

OOOO

WE have received the programme of an interesting pianoforte recital which was recently given by Mr. Harry Greenwood at Capetown on behalf of St. Dunstan's. The items were of a classical nature, including pianoforte solos by Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Schubert, etc., whilst Miss Ivy Christensen contributed recitations both grave and gay. The evening was a complete success.

OOOO

AT a recent meeting of the Church Benefit Society at Leeds, Mr. John R. Emblen, A.C.P., a member of the staff of the National Institute for the Blind, London, was elected a member of the Executive Council. There were fourteen candidates and only five vacancies.

OOOO

WE do not know and realise how cheap the seeds of happiness are, or we should scatter them oftener.

THE CARE OF THE BLIND

THE following letter, dated July 2nd, was addressed to the Editor of the *Yorkshire Post* by Sir Arthur Pearson:—

Dear Sir,—I have read with interest the article entitled "The Care of the Blind," which appeared in your issue of 26th June, in which is the following paragraph:—

"The claims of the soldiers blinded in the War and of babies blind from birth have been splendidly impressed on the attention of the public by Sir Arthur Pearson and his co-adjutors. But though the work for the relief of such sufferers is fully recognised as in the highest degree deserving, it touches but the fringe of a vast question. Thus, for instance, in the city of Bradford (including for this purpose the whole of North Bierley) there are twenty blind soldiers, and about half a dozen blind babies, but there are no fewer than 460 blind persons not included in the Pearson scheme, and the great proportion of them needing consolation and aid of one sort or another if not continued financial assistance."

The inference is that the activities of the National Institute for the Blind, of which I have the honour to be President, are confined to the care of blinded soldiers and blind babies.

This is a quite erroneous impression.

The so-called "Pearson scheme" embraces the provision of the whole of the literature printed in the Moon type for blind people of the English-speaking world, practically the whole of that printed in the Braille type for the blind people of the British Empire; it includes a very widely developed department for the printing and dissemination of Braille music, without which blind musicians would be helpless; it includes the financial responsibility and conduct of the Worcester College for the Higher Education of Blind Boys, and the newly established College at Chorley Wood for the Higher Education of Blind Girls; it includes the training of blind persons in massage and secretarial occupations; it includes much important research work with regard to apparatus and materials generally of wide importance to the blind, and the manufacture of these; it includes an old-established and far-reaching organisation for visiting and assisting the blind in their own homes; it includes the expenditure of many thousands of pounds annually for the relief of needy blind persons; it includes the upkeep of Hoole Bank, Chester, for the maintenance of

blind persons who are of good social position, and unable to maintain themselves in comfort; it includes the upkeep of a home at Clifton for blind women of the poorer classes; it includes a considerable measure of financial responsibility for a large number of the most important institutions for the blind throughout the country; it includes a great deal else which the space you can allow this letter to occupy will not permit me to mention.

Later on the article speaks of soldiers blinded by shell-shock: no soldiers were permanently blinded by shell-shock. Temporary blindness, enduring at the most for three or four weeks, resulted from this form of injury.

In regard to the latter part of the article, which deals with the unification of collections for the blind, may I be allowed to say, without wishing to seem conceited, that I happen to have been endowed by Providence with some special faculties which have enabled me in the case of the Prince of

Wales' Fund, the National Institute for the Blind, St. Dunstan's, the Fresh Air Fund, and other efforts, to place appeals before the public in a manner which led to a rather note worthy success. I was, and still am, desirous of placing these special faculties at the disposal of those in charge of the interests of the blind generally, should they care to accept the offer, but as I said at the meeting which is referred to in your article, I should have much less work to do, and should be relieved of much worry and responsibility, if they think fit to reject the offer. From the purely personal point of view I prefer to continue to make myself responsible for the efforts on behalf of the blind with which I am intimately associated.

I wish everyone else who is making efforts on behalf of the blind the most

abundant measure of success, and I should like to end by deprecating the idea that there should exist any rivalry between a great National undertaking such as the National Institute for the Blind, and local efforts on behalf of local blind people. There is room for us all, and it is high time that small people with small minds realised this fact.—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR PEARSON,

President, National Institute for the Blind.

224 Great Portland Street, London, W.

2nd July, 1920.

OOOO

GREAT EXAMPLES

THE glorious successes of St. Dunstan's

men make the proudest lesson of modern times. Bearing in mind what these men have suffered and what they have achieved in spite of it, which of us would dare to notice his own trifling ailments?

It is well to remember the great things that have been done by men who never knew good



DOUBLE SCULLS RACE AT PUTNEY

health. Think of Charles Lamb, of Thomas Hood. Never knowing themselves the joy that comes only with glowing health, what joy they contrived to shed on mankind!

Are we then to wear a gloomy face for headache, or shut up shop for a cold in the head?—*Daily Express*.

OOOO

EIGHTY-TWO years ago the establishment of the Newcastle Asylum for the Blind was decided upon. On that day, at a meeting held in the Guild Hall, presided over by the Mayor (Mr. T. E. Headlam), it was decided that instead of an illumination of the town in celebration of the Coronation of Queen Victoria on the 28th of June, a subscription should be raised and applied to the foundation of an institution to be called "The Royal Victoria Asylum for the Blind."

BLIND PERSON'S BILL

THE Bill introduced by Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, to promote the welfare of blind persons in the United Kingdom, was considered on Wednesday, July 21st, by a Standing Committee of the House of Commons, presided over by Sir Watson Rutherford. On Clause I, which enables every blind person who has attained the age of fifty to receive such a pension as he would have been entitled to receive at the age of seventy under the Old Age Pensions Act, Mr. Stephen Walsh said that the Government had made an honest attempt to deal with a grave problem, but it had not been so courageous as the circumstances required. To start these pensions at fifty would be to touch only one-third of the problem, and it was not what the nation was demanding.

Dr. Addison pointed out that over fifty per cent. of the blind would be automatically included within the operation of the clause, and of the remainder one-third were children under sixteen years of age. Under Clause II, if amended, as he proposed, it would be the duty of county and county borough councils, instead of being optional as originally contemplated, to make provision for the training and the maintenance of all blind persons. The Government proposed that fifty per cent. of all capital expenditure of those authorities in regard to the provision of workshops and so forth should be provided by Exchequer grants. In addition they would continue grants in respect of training, and would make maintenance grants to institutions in respect of persons trained. He considered that it was better to proceed in this way than by granting pensions in a wholesale manner.

The clause was carried by sixteen votes to nine, and Dr. Addison then moved the new sub-section to Clause II already mentioned. An amendment requiring local authorities to carry out the duties imposed on them within six months after the Act had come into operation was accepted, and the sub-section as amended was agreed to.

A further amendment proposed by Dr. Addison, and adopted, required that local education authorities should make suitable provision for the technical education of blind persons. The Committee stage was concluded, and the Bill as amended was ordered to be reported to the House for the third reading.

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL INSTITUTION

AT the annual meeting of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, Mr. Alfred Wilson, in seconding the adoption of the report, said there had been no case of a child losing sight from infantile ophthalmia since 1913. Out of 282 children who suffered from ophthalmia last year only nine had their sight damaged. The Ministry of Health was now moving, and grants in aid had been paid to the institution. The schools had been full during the year, and there were thirty children awaiting education, twenty-one of whom were below ten years of age. It would be necessary to extend the Kindergarten School at Harborne as soon as they possibly could.

The trading had been a record, amounting to a £45,600 turnover, and although they had had a deficit of £431, interest had been paid on capital, rent had been paid, and £8,000 in wages for the blind workers, and £5,000 in augmentation, which four years ago was only £1,700. The total deficit on the year was £4,300. The workshops were now full. They could hardly find room to accommodate those who needed training.

They required extended workshops, and a hostel for men. They ought also to be able to pay a living wage to all blind employees. The average takings of the men at present were 46s. per week, including an average of 16s. per week from augmentation funds. There were 120 blind people in the Birmingham workhouses to-day. It was a reproach to Birmingham to allow these blind people to spend their remaining years in the workhouses. Bradford had already removed all the sightless from the workhouses, and if somebody would give Birmingham buildings suitable for homes the institution could make a beginning.

OOOO

THE Editor would be glad to receive reports and news items from heads of Institutions and others interested in the welfare of the Blind. These should be received before the 16th of the month previous to insertion. Address contributions: Editor, *The Beacon*, The National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.



SILENT FRIENDS



THE subject of "Reading," which we have pursued in our last two issues of the *Beacon*, is such an absorbing one that we venture to add yet another writer's thoughts on this topic. There are, indeed, few people to whom books of one kind or another are not a necessity, whether for their work or as a means of diversion. What should we feel like if we were suddenly deprived of intercourse with the best minds of all the ages? What would our life be without our silent friends, ever at hand, ever ready to administer advice, and cheer, and consolation? "Everything passes away except great writing. Pictures fade and monuments crumble into dust, and even music ceases—where are the songs of Greece and Rome? What tune sang Miriam? Only what is enshrined in books is eternal."

"I would not," writes Richard King, the author of that delightful little book "With Silent Friends," "I would not be without books for anything in this world. They are a means of getting away, of forgetting, of losing oneself, the past, the present and the future, in the thoughts of other men and women. . . . I don't think," he goes on to say, "that most of us pay half enough respectful attention to books, seeing how greatly we depend upon them for some of the quietest pleasures of our lives. But that is the way of human nature, isn't it? We rarely value anything until we lose it; we sigh most ardently for the thing which is beyond our reach; we count our happiest days those across the record of which we now must scrawl. 'Alas! Too late!' That is why I always feel so infinitely sorry for the blind. The blind can so rarely get away from themselves, and, when they do, only with that effort which in you and me would demand some bigger result than merely to lose remembrance of our minor worries. When we are in trouble, when we are in pain, when our heart weeps silently and alone, its sorrow unsuspected by even our nearest and

dearest, we, I say, can oftentimes deaden the sad ache of the everyday by going out into the world, seeking change of scene, change of environment, something to divert, for the nonce, the unhappy tenor of our lives. But the blind, alas! can do none of these things. Wherever they go, to whatever change of scene they flee for variety, the same haunting darkness follows them unendingly.

"It is so difficult for them to get away from themselves, to seek that change and novelty which, in our hours of dread and suspense, are our most urgent need. All the time, day in, day out, their perpetual darkness thrusts them back upon themselves. They cannot get away from it. Nothing—or perhaps, so very, very few things—can take them out of themselves. Their own needs, their own loss, their own loneliness, are perpetually with them. So their emotions go round and round in a vicious circle, from which there is no possible escape. Never, never can they *give*. They have so little to offer but love and gratitude. But, although gratitude is so beautiful and so rare, it is not an emotion that we yearn to feel always and always. We want to give, to be thanked ourselves, to cheer, to succour, to do some little good ourselves while yet we may. There is a joy in *giving* generously, just as there is in *receiving* generously. Yet, there are many moments in each man's life when no gift can numb the dull ache of the inevitable, when nothing, except getting away—somewhere, somehow, and immediately—can stifle the unspoken pain which comes to all of us and which in not every instance can we so easily cast off. Some men travel; some men go out into the world to lose their own trouble in administering to the trouble of other people; some find forgetfulness in work—hard, strenuous labour; most of us, especially when our trouble be not overwhelming, find solace in art, or music, and especially, in books. For books take one suddenly into another world, among other men and women; and sometimes in the problem of their lives we may find a

solution of our own trials, and be helped, encouraged, restarted on our way by them.

"I thought of these things the other day when examining some of the thousands of books in Braille type which have been issued by the National Institute for the Blind. I said to myself: 'How the blind must appreciate this blessing!' And from that I began to realise once more how those who cannot see depend so greatly on books—that means of 'forgetting' which you and I pass by so casually. For *we* can seek diversion in a score of ways, but *they*, the blind, have so few, so very few means of escape. Wherever they go, they never find a change of scene—merely the sounds alter, that is all. But in books they can suddenly find a new world—a world which *they can see*.

"I can remember talking once to a blinded soldier about dreams. I have often wondered what kind of dreams blind people—those who have been blind from birth, I mean—dream, what kind of scenes their vision pictures, how their friends, and those they love, look, who people this world of sleeping fancy. I have never had the courage to ask those blind people whom I know, but this soldier to whom I talked, told me that every night when he goes to bed he prays that he may dream—because in his dreams he is not blind, in his dreams he can see, and he is once more happy. I could have sobbed aloud when he told me, but to sob over the inevitable is useless—better make happier the world which is a fact. But I realised that this dream-sight gave him inestimable comfort. It gave him something to think about in the darkness of the day. It was a change from always thinking about the past—the past when he could laugh and shout, run wild and enjoy himself as other boys enjoy their lives. And

this blinded soldier used to be reading—always reading. I used to chaff him about it, calling him a book-worm, urging him to go to theatres, tea-parties, long walks. He laughed, but shook his head. Then he told me that, although he never used to care much for reading, books were now one of the comforts of his life. 'When I feel blind,' he said—'and we don't always feel blind, you know, when we are in the right company among people who know how to treat us as if we were not children, and as if we were not deaf—I pick up a book, and, if I stick to it and concentrate, I begin to lose remembrance and to live in the story. I am reading and among the people of the tale. And—it is more like seeing

the world than anything else I do!'

"I must confess, his remark gave me an additional respect for those huge volumes of books written in Braille, which he always carried about with him, than I had ever felt before. When you and I are 'fed up' with life and everybody surrounding us—and we all have these moods—we can escape

open grouching by taking a long walk, or by seeing fresh people and fresh places, watching, thinking, and amusing ourselves in a new fashion. But the blind have only books—they alone are the only handy means by which they can get away from the present and lose themselves amid surroundings new and strange. All the more need, then, for us to help along the good work done by the National Institute for the Blind."

OOOO

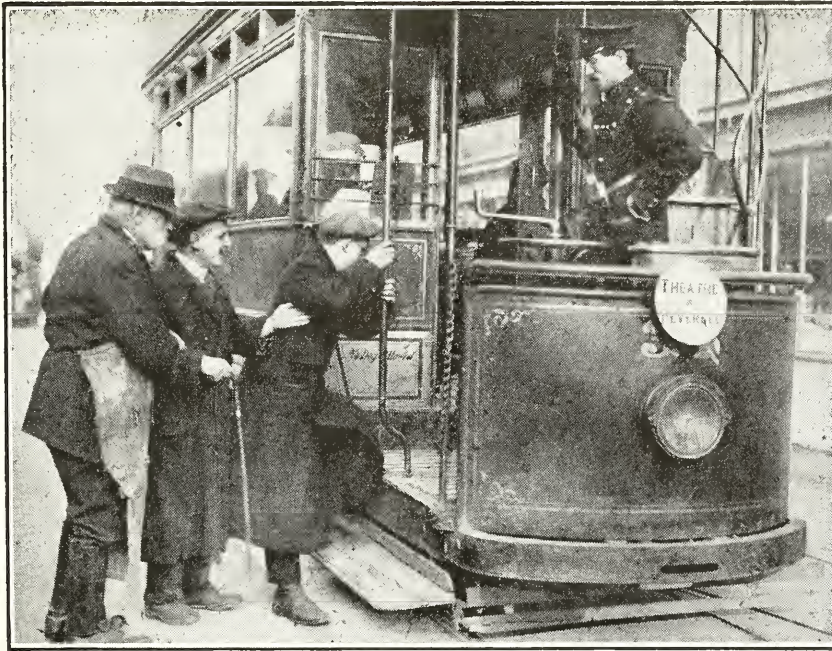
To be natural in art is to be sincere.

Joseph Joubert.

OOOO

POETRY is simply the most delightful and perfect form of utterance that human words can reach.

Matthew Arnold.



FREE TRAM RIDES FOR THE BLIND.

THE BLIND CHILD

'TIS the happiest time of all the year,
In the fields where the children play,
And their shouts and laughter ring out clear,
As they pluck the blossoms gay.

Heavily go my feet along
The way that is dark as night,
What to me is a child's sweet song
Or the glory of summer light?

What mean to me the blossoms wild,
Blue sky and the light of day,
What *can* they be to a poor blind child
Who has never been taught to play,

Whose day is night without star or moon,
Or hope of a dawn to come,
Whose reason itself may vanish soon,
As his heart and his lips grow dumb.

Oh let me share in the play and song
Of the children who have their sight,
And place me amidst that merry throng,
Who will help me to find the Light.

E. Goldsmith.

OOOO

ON Monday, June 21st, a delightful violin and pianoforte recital was given at the Northern Branch of the National Library for the Blind, 5 St. John Street, Manchester, by Miss Jo Lamb and Miss Dorothy Crewe, who are among the best known of the younger Manchester musicians. Mr. William Eller presided, and gave briefly some interesting information on the forms of the pieces given. The two chief items on the programme were a beautiful Brahms's Sonata for violin and piano, and the best known of the Mendelssohn Concertos. The other items were also classical, but not so important, and the whole programme was thoroughly enjoyed by a rather small but enthusiastic audience. The vote of thanks to the artistes and Mr. Eller was proposed by Mr. A. B. Windsor. The next concert is fixed for Saturday, July 24th, at 7 o'clock, and the Secretary will be much obliged if all readers will kindly note this and accept it as a personal invitation.

OOOO

EVERY noble life leaves the fibre of it
interwoven for ever in the work of the world.
J. Ruskin.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

FICTION

Cathedral Singer, 1 vol.....*James Lane Allen*
Up and Down, 4 vols.....*E. F. Benson*
House of Defence, 4 vols.*E. F. Benson*
Mountains of the Moon, 3 vols.....*J. D. Beresford*
Wanted—a King, 2 vols.....*M. Browne*
Little Green World, 4 vols.....*J. E. Buckrose*
Country House, 4 vols.....*J. Galsworthy*
Peter Binney, Undergraduate, 3 vols. ...*A. Marshall*
Processionals, 5 vols.*Elinor Mordaunt*
Silent Rancher, 3 vols.....*Gertrude Page*
Will of Allah, 5 vols.....*K. Rhodes*
Antagonists, 3 vols.....*E. Temple Thurston*
Maradick, 7 vols.*Hugh Walpole*

MISCELLANEOUS

History of United States, 5 vols.....*Cecil Chesterton*
Reincarnation the Hope of the World, 2 vols.
Irving S. Cooper
Prince of Peace, 2 vols.....*A. Goodier, S.J.*
Shadow of the Glen; Riders of the Sea; Tinker's
Wedding (three Plays), 1 vol.....*J. M. Synge*
Euripides and his Age, 3 vols. (E. W. Austin
Memorial).....*Gilbert Murray*
On the Writing of English, 2 vols.*G. T. Warner*
Homesteading, 3 vols.*E. West*
Heart of the New Thought, 1 vol.....*E. W. Wilcox*
Music and Other Poems.....*H. Van Dyke*

GRADE III

Jesus Christ and the Social Question, 3 vols
F. G. Peabody
One Thing I know, or the Power of the Unseen,
1 vol.....*E. M. S.*

ESPERANTO

Readmons (Deuteronomy), 2 vols.

MOON

Three Things, 1 vol*M. R. S. Andrews*
Happy-Go-Lucky, 5 vols.*Ian Hay*
Naulahka, 6 vols.....*R. Kipling and W. Balesier*
Tales from Shakespeare, 7 vols.....*C. M. Lamb*
New Arabian Nights, 7 vols.....*R. L. Stevenson*

MUSIC

PIANO—

Overture, A Midsummer Night's Dream *Mendelssohn*

SONGS—

Dansons la Gigue (French words only).....*J. Szult*
Amarilli.....*G. Caccini*
Bois Epais (Sombre Woods) ("Amadis").....*Lully*
As Ever I Saw.....*P. Warlock*
Soir D' Été (French words only).....*E. Moret*
Belle Hermione ("Cadmus et Hermione")*Lully*
Selve Amiche*A. Caldara*

CHURCH—

The Lord Hath been Mindful of Us (General)
S. S. Wesley

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—No. 45.

SEPTEMBER, 1920.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL

THE BLIND PERSONS BILL



It is with the greatest possible pleasure that we call attention to the improvements effected during the final stages of the Blind Persons Bill. In previous issues we noted the fact that the second reading had been taken, and called attention to several distinct weaknesses in the measure. We are pleased to be able to say, however, that some of the objections we then urged

have been removed, e.g., the clauses have been made mandatory, provision has been included for technical education, and in one or two minor particulars the section of the Act dealing with bogus organisations has been strengthened.

The Committee stage of the Bill was concluded on Wednesday, 21st July, and the third reading was taken in the early hours of the morning of the 30th July. The Bill passed the third reading in the House of Lords, and it received the Royal Assent on Monday, 16th August. In the amended Bill we find that it is dated to come into operation on the 10th September, 1920. It will be perhaps of some interest to our readers if we quote the main provisions of the measure.

Clause 1 states :

"Every blind person who has attained the age of fifty shall be entitled to receive and to continue to receive such pension as, under the Old Age Pensions Acts, 1908 to 1919, he would be entitled to receive if he had attained the age of seventy. . . ."

Thus it will be seen that every blind person over fifty years of age will be entitled to a sum of 10s. per week from the Treasury, providing all other sources of income do not

amount to more than an additional 10s. per week ; thus, under the Bill, the maximum amount of income, inclusive of Treasury grant, must not exceed £1 per week. The State grant, though providing a maximum of 10s., as under the Old Age Pensions Act, is based upon a sliding scale proportionate to the extraneous income. Thus, if a person has a fixed income of 11s. per week the Government grant would be 9s.; if the fixed income were 12s. per week the amount of Government augmentation would be 8s. ; and thus down to 19s., where the Government grant would be 1s.

Though we do not regard the maximum amount under the Bill as nearly adequate for the proper maintenance of those who must perforce depend upon such forms of assistance, it is a useful beginning, and we hope may be considerably improved upon in the near future.

We should point out that under the Old Age Pensions Amendment Act, 1919, it is competent for the local authorities to provide an additional 10s. to that of the Treasury grant, and we hope that Boards of Guardians will be sufficiently generous to utilise the powers they possess.

We would particularly direct the attention of our readers to Clause 2 of the Bill, the first Section of which we quote in extenso, in order that our readers may grasp the fact that the Bill is not only made mandatory, but its provisions are exceedingly wide and comprehensive.

"It shall be the duty of the council of every county and every county borough, within twelve months of this Act coming into operation, whether in combination with any other council or councils or otherwise, to make arrangements to the satisfaction of the Minister of Health for promoting the welfare of blind persons ordinarily resident within their area,

and such council may for this purpose provide and maintain or contribute towards the provision and maintenance of workshops, hostels, homes, or other places for the reception of blind persons whether within or without their area, and with the approval of the Minister of Health, do such other things as may appear to them desirable for the purpose aforesaid.'

In Clause 2 also (Section 4), the constitution of the controlling authority is defined :

"A council may exercise any of the powers conferred by this section (other than the power of raising a rate or of borrowing money) through a committee of the council, and may appoint as members of the committee persons specially qualified by training or experience in matters relating to the blind who are not members of the council, but not less than two-thirds of the members of every such committee shall consist of members of the council, and a committee established under this section may, subject to any direction of the council appoint such and so many sub-committees consisting either or partly of members of the committee, as the committee thinks fit."

Sub-section 6 of this same Clause is of prime importance. It is as follows :

"Nothing in this section shall affect the powers and duties of local education authorities under the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, or the Education Acts, 1870 to 1919, and local education authorities in the exercise of their duty to contribute to the establishment of a national system of public education available for all persons capable of profiting thereby shall make or otherwise secure adequate and suitable provision for the technical education of blind persons ordinarily resident in their area who are capable of receiving and being benefited by such education."

It will be seen, therefore, that the Bill has emerged from its committee stage a very much wiser and more comprehensive measure than was at first anticipated. It will be interesting to carefully note the use that will be made by local authorities of the powers with which they are shortly to be entrusted. The blind and their friends in every part of the country, should employ such means as are at their disposal to induce the local authorities to act promptly, and to use in the most generous fashion the powers with which they have been entrusted.

Thus the Act marks another milestone along the road to progress.

Blind folk can have a free copy of the Blind Persons Act, in Braille, upon application to the Secretary-General, National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, W.1, or from the Secretary of any of the Institute's branches.

At the time of going to press the copies of the Blind Persons Act have not been received, but the Braille copies will be posted to all applicants as soon as possible.

THE ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFICATED BLIND MASSEURS

THE Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind, was the scene of an interesting ceremony on 22nd July, when the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs held a meeting to inaugurate the first year of the Association's inception. That the Association, whose president is Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E., and which numbers amongst its vice-presidents many of the most famous medical men in the country, has amply justified its existence was proved by the report presented by the Secretary of what had been accomplished in the short time that has elapsed since the foundation of the society. The membership of the Association comprises soldiers blinded in the war and trained at St. Dunstan's, and civilian masseurs and masseuses trained at or under the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind.

The meeting was well attended, with Mr. P. L. Way in the chair and supported on the platform by Major W. H. Broad, M.D., R.A.M.C., and Cortlandt MacMahon, Esq., M.A., two of the Association's Vice-Presidents. At the conclusion of the proceedings the Honorary Secretary of the Association, Mrs. F. Chaplin Hall, was presented with a signed address and a note-case containing a cheque, as a tribute to the untiring devotion she has shown in the interests of the members of the A.C.B.M.

We wish the Association all the success it deserves, for the suitability of Massage as a profession for the blind needs no emphasis in these pages.

oooo

WE greatly regret to record the death of Mr. W. Rochfort Wade, M.A., Secretary of the Irish Branch of the National Institute for the Blind, whose offices are 10 Westmoreland Street, Dublin. Mr. Wade was a solicitor by profession, but, losing his sight, he became attached to the National Institute and commenced work for the blind in Ireland over six years ago, work which has been attended with signal success, despite many difficulties. Mr. Wade was an indefatigable worker and intensely interested in the cause of the blind ; his death has caused a blank which will be extremely difficult to fill.

Our sympathies go out to Mrs. Wade and her family in their bereavement.

THE BLIND MAN

A LESSON FROM PERCEPTIVE CHARACTER DRAWING



HERE is in the July number of *The English Review* a very perceptive little story in which Mr. D. H. Lawrence sets out some thoughts that startle and give one pause. There are three people with whom our thoughts are concerned—a man blinded in Flanders and with a disfiguring scar marking his brow; the blind man's wife; and her cousin and great friend, a man with whom she has much in common.

"She loved him—though not in the marrying sense. There was a sort of kinship between them, an affinity. They understood one another instinctively. But Isabel would never have thought of marrying Bertie. It would have seemed like marrying in her own family."

Isabel and her husband were united by a very close and beautiful tie. They had been married five years. And the last year, we are told, "had been one of blindness and unspeakable intimacy."

Maurice Perrin, Isabel's husband, was a brave and resolute man. He was back at the Grange, his own place, and busied himself usefully about the farmstead.

"He milked the cows, carried in the pails, turned the separator, attended to the pigs and horses. Life was still very full and strangely serene for the blind man, peaceful with the almost incomprehensible peace of immediate contact in darkness. With his wife he had a whole world, rich and real and invisible."

"They were newly and remotely happy. He did not even regret the loss of his sight in these times of dark, palpable joy. A certain exultance swelled his soul."

But the author does not make the mistake of trying to lead us to believe that for this gallant couple life was "roses, roses all the way." No, he looks deep down into these two human souls, and he tells us the plain truth—

"Sometimes he (Maurice) had devastating fits of depression. It was worse than depression—a black misery, when his own life was a torture to him and when his presence was unbearable to his wife. The dread went down to the roots of her soul as these black days recurred."

She invites friends, trying in an almost panic of loving concern to give him further

connection with the outside world. But effort like this is of no avail.

"After all their joy and suffering, after their dark, great year of blindness and solitude and unspeakable nearness, other people seemed to them both shallow, rattling, rather impertinent."

They cling together, hugging their solitude. Isabel even gives up her friendship with her cousin.

"For nearly two years nothing had passed between the two friends. Isabel rather gloried in the fact: she had no compunction. She had one great article of faith, which was that husband and wife should be so important to one another that the rest of the world simply did not count. She and Maurice were husband and wife. They loved one another. They would have children. Then let everybody and everything else fade into insignificance outside this connubial felicity."

Yet life is a complex affair; even though courage and love give an almost incredible strength, doubts and fears must sometimes assail. In a few weeks time Isabel will bear her second child. Her first baby died in infancy when the father was in France. Both parents look with intense joy to the coming of the second. And yet—poor Isabel finds herself wondering, with a trembling sinking of the heart.

"She had her husband on her hands, a terrible joy to her and a terrifying burden. The child would occupy her love and attention. And then, what of Maurice?"

Women readers of Mr. Lawrence's true-to-life story, while they sympathise with Isabel, are not seriously concerned on her behalf. This terror, they feel, is mainly physical and will pass. Isabel has momentarily forgotten that love grows by giving. When she sees her husband's joy in the child that is coming to them, she will realise that here is something to fight that black depression which from time to time has been a hellish nightmare to Maurice and to herself.

But another complexity arises. Her cousin Bertie does not acquiesce in the effacement of their friendship. He proposes to come and stay awhile. Maurice, who had never cared much for him in old days, now wishes him to come, and tries to get near to him in friendship. It is all rather pathetic, for Bertie is a

man of unconquerable reserves. A man who shrinks from all close contact, who winces at physical demonstrative display of any kind.

"So long as he could avoid any danger of courtship or marriage, he adored a few good women with constant and unfailing homage, and he was chivalrously fond of quite a number. But if they seemed to encroach on him, he withdrew and detested them."

The author makes us see at once that such a character will shrink from friendship with this brave, blind man. He hesitates, with a nervous start, when Maurice thrusts out his hand into space with a word of greeting. He has to pull himself together before he can clasp it. He watches him at table. Later, Maurice, anxious for friendship, opens his heart to this kinsman of his wife.

"The hand of the blind man grasped the shoulder, the arm, the hand of the other man. He seemed to take him, in the soft, travelling grasp."

But Bertie quivers with revulsion, though he does his best seemingly to respond. It is understandable, in a man of this character. But he is missing a great deal, we feel, by his failure to let his heart go out in rich, warm friendship, pulsing with life as is the friendship Maurice offers, and imagines to be accepted and reciprocated.

They come in from the farmstead, and on meeting Isabel in the hall Maurice announces with an almost passionate delight that he and Bertie have made a compact to be real friends.

"'Friends!' re-echoed Isabel. . . . But she was watching Bertie. She knew that he had one desire—to escape from this intimacy, this friendship, which had been thrust upon him. He could not bear it that he had been touched by the blind man, his insane reserve broken in. He was like a mollusc whose shell is broken."

After all, when we have studied these brilliant pen-portraits and thought a moment, it is not for Isabel, not for Bertie, that our hearts are wrung. It is for Maurice, with his outpouring of friendship unmet, unvalued; sooner or later he will realise that there is no Jonathan for his David, and the moment will be bitter. We are glad that the courageous blind people who get on so undauntedly with their day-by-day fight in the dark do not too often run up against these mollusc men. We thank God that the understanding hearts are in the majority. And the understanding heart, instead of shrinking from the blind man's touch, realises how the soul reaches the object of its affection through the finger-tips sometimes, just as the sighted man likes to let his gaze rest upon the features of a friend. There is in it no real onslaught upon the reserve of even the shyest soul. S. B. P.

BLIND CHILDREN'S DREAMS

THE dreams of blind children have been made a subject of study by the education branch of the Psychological Society, and some curious points have been brought out, as that many blind children claim to see perfectly in their dreams. They love their dreams for the glorious visions vouchsafed. Many deaf children say they can hear dream conversations. Dread of fire is the cause of a common nightmare among the blind, while among the deaf the fear of animals comes out strongly in their dreams. And while the blind rarely dream of grand adventures and deeds of gallantry, deaf boys commonly do so. A typical adventure-dream was that of a deaf boy who flew in his sleep over the Kaiser's castle, blew it to bits with a bomb, and returned home to be greeted as a hero; but his story has a tragic end. "I was just having the Victoria Cross," he relates, "and a thousand pounds, when I heard a voice, and it said, 'Turn out of bed!'"

oooo

A BLIND POULTRY EXPERT

HE was blind, but he had been a poultry expert for twenty years, and could tell you all about the perfect hen. Arrayed in correct white coat, he held up deftly a neat round basket, and said, "Here it is!" What fingers he had—sensitive, pliant, caressing! They were all five senses rolled in one. He touched her comb, her skin, her feathers. Then he showed what he could do with her. Holding her by her yellow legs, he swung her up and down, abaft and astern. "Oh, she likes it," he said. To see him give the hen a pill was a revelation. He had the pills all ready in the pocket of his linen coat. The perfect hen lay peacefully on his arm. "She likes it!" he asserted once more, loudly and confidently. And he was right again. She did like it—she liked anything he did, for he was the perfect poultryman. Beside him in his blindness, we with eyes seemed stupid, clumsy creatures. Nobody had such wonderful hands, such deft motions as he.

F. A. D. (*Daily Chronicle*).

oooo

MANY men owe the grandeur of their lives to their tremendous difficulties.

C. H. Spurgeon.

ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

SOME of the greatest successes achieved by the students of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind have been in the realm of music. No fewer than eighty-four graduates of the college have obtained organ appointments in all parts of the country, and seventy have gained either the associateship or the fellowship of the Royal College of Organists. Several have taken the degree of Bachelor of Music.

But it is not only music which is light in darkness to the students of this college. Their achievements in the learning of ordinary school subjects, and particularly in reading, type-writing, Braille-shorthand, and pianoforte tuning, together with gymnastics, swimming, dancing, and physical drill, are in themselves so much light to the blind. They are happy in their accomplishments; they are most happy in the knowledge that they are able, or soon will be able, to earn their own living and become independent and self-reliant citizens. There are now more than 600 former pupils earning their own living.

Mr. Guy Campbell, the principal of the college, states that 84.4 per cent. of the graduates are filling their places in the world. The methods of training the students were well illustrated at the recent annual prize festival. An attractive outdoor programme had to be curtailed owing to the rain, but the visitors were able to follow with keen appreciation the many aspects of the indoor educational work.

SCHOLASTIC NOTES

MISS SADIE ISAACS, who is blind, was successful in passing the matriculation examination of the University of London held recently; she gained distinction in history. The National Institute for the Blind has been able to assist Miss Isaacs financially and by supplying her with Braille transcriptions of books of study. Mr. Emblen, a member of the staff of the Institute, has been acting as a coach for Miss Isaacs and also assisted in the transcription of the examination papers into

Braille and the answers from Braille into type-writing.

Mr. Eric P. Dowdell, a pupil at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, was successful in the same examination, being placed in the First Division.

THE Cowen Home at Benwell Grange, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has now been handed over to the Royal Victoria

School for the Blind at Benwell Dene, and will be utilised as a training school for the older girls. The Home is close to the Blind School, and will therefore serve as a very convenient annexe wherein young women after their ordinary schooling is finished may be taught occupations that will enable them to earn their livelihood. This enlargement of the activities of the School for the Blind by the transfer of the Cowen Home to its control marks the beginning of an interesting chapter in its history. It is also very pleasing to learn that the identification of the founders of the Cowen Home is to be retained in the change as the new and benevolent enterprise is to be known as the Joseph and Jane Cowen Annexe to the Royal Victoria School for the Blind.



[Photo by the Central News, Ltd., London.]

ROYALTY AT NEWINGTON HOUSE

A ST. DUNSTAN'S HOME IN SOUTH AFRICA

(By Mrs. George Cran)



THE tall hills stretch above his farm, their brows veiled in the beneficent clouds which make the valley so fertile. On bright days they carve the sky with a bold outline and challenge the landscape in that brilliant and beckoning blue peculiar to African hills; to the hill-wanderers, their intimates, they reveal themselves thick with heather and bracken, with delicate ferns, flaming montbretia, irises and lilies. A fit setting for a blinded Scotch soldier boy.

Before I left England to travel the British Empire on behalf of the disabled fighting men, I promised Sir Arthur Pearson I would look up some of the St. Dunstan's lads in our overseas Dominions and report on how I found them; and so therefore I have left the Cape Town train as it clambered down the rocky pass into a small, slumbrous valley-town and made my way to this poultry-farm, to keep my promise.

To my English eyes it looks like a miniature estate rather than a poultry-farm. Fifty acres, neatly hedged, a circular drive through a truly lovely garden—which even in this autumnal April weather blooms brilliantly with roses—a lusty young Loquat tree in the central lawn, and, beyond the flower beds, peas, beans and potatoes in homely array, the paths edged with peach, fig, quince, and orange trees. Behind the kitchen garden is a choice apple orchard of young trees in bearing, standing in orderly rows, with clean brown earth at their feet. My gardener's eye sees with approval the healthy aspect of the trees and the orderly care of their upkeep. There are two plantations of young firs, and only the sweet, erotic breath of the orange blossom tells me I am not back in Surrey or Scotland among the pine and heather hills.

Every St. Dunstan's man is sheltered when he goes back to the civilian world to face his new life by the After-Care system, a wise precaution which ensures that the men who have been so especially trained,

studied and cared for in Regent's Park shall not find themselves in any part of the world without a St. Dunstan's friend to turn to—without being able to taste again whenever they wish the flavour of the special understanding which, in the first shock of disablement, made their lot so happy there. In the "After-Care" system that name of gentle memory—St. Dunstan's—echoes and sings in every land.

In the Union of South Africa it is Mr. and Mrs. Vintcent, M.B.E., who have made the happiness of the blinded soldiers their life-work. As we drive along she points out a splendid hillslope of 800 acres. "We have bought that," she says, "and are building a large house with a big room for dancing and entertainment, so that every year at least once all the South African St. Dunstan's boys can meet under my roof and talk over old days and their present lives and prospects. They love to meet—and I need room to entertain them."

A long, low white house comes in sight, beautifully proportioned, with a stone pillared stoep, and circular steps up to the front door. I turn to her, bewildered. "Its beautiful! Its wonderful! I know the Governor-General's Fund of South Africa has been very generous to its disabled, but do they all have this?" And then I taste of her wisdom. "Each case must be handled individually," she explains. "Some men would be very uncomfortable here; presently I will show you a mat-maker who prefers town life. He has a little house, which is the joy of his wife's heart. She is very good to him and it and the baby. She was a London housemaid, and never dreamed of having what is to her so grand a home. But here they would be lost and useless. This boy was training as a sugar refiner in South Africa when war broke out. He had left a spacious Scotch home to take up that profession. He always hoped to make enough money to own a farm. It was his ambition—he had all the Scotch pride of ownership. He is contented here—

his life is busy with work all focussed on improving and enriching this beloved spot.

I understood. I have not suffered with land-hunger all my life for nothing, nor slaked my garden-thirst on three hired acres for long, long years without guessing how deeply a man may drink of joy in the knowledge of possessing such a comely place—even though he gave his sight to get it.

"Every word of description that falls from a visitor's lips is a picture to him," went on the tender voice. "He can feel the spaces of his house, and he knows that it is not mean. He is reposed by the proportions of his life's setting," I envied the blind boys of South Africa this wise mother. I know from four years' work among the disabled at the Imperial Association how truly she spoke. Every man's troubles are peculiar to himself—the disablement may be identical, but by temperament, breeding, financial and domestic circumstances the needs of this man and of that are as far apart as the poles. Only infinite patience and individual attention can ever successfully place back into happy civilian lives the maimed and wounded of the war. It is because the Government tried herd treatment and mass treatment instead of individual treatment that it has failed so often to please the men or the public. The independent war organisations have done magnificent work because they recognised the individual human being. And nowhere more thoroughly than St. Dunstan's.

We shut off the engine, and Mrs. Vintcent took me through the garden to find our host among his fowls. He was busy—to be frank, a bit grumpy; a long semi-intensive house was being fitted with perches, and a coloured lad was handing him the screws as he fitted them up over the cups filled with paraffin which keeps them clear of ticks—he did not want to have to entertain a strange female, and I went round the pens alone. I know how bitterly I have hated inopportune visitors myself when busy and happy and dirty in my Surrey garden, but I was a little disappointed all the same. I am fond of poultry; he had some fine birds, and I would have liked to talk to him of them. Some sensitive intuition told him so, I fancy, for when we returned the keys of the houses he took me round his "estate" himself, telling me why he had planted the firs, and bidding me pick the violets and roses which bloomed richly on every side; the firs, it appears, are an investment for the future. In about

twenty-five years they will be worth five pounds each to the Government; he can spare the acreage, and when he is about fifty a nice little nest-egg will be matured from the four hundred brave saplings he has set. Trees grow well in that favoured valley, where the common African trouble of drought is quite unknown. By-and-by he explained that he was very anxious to get Mrs. Vintcent's opinion on his last purchase of a span of oxen for his ploughing; so I drew away and watched the two of them leaning over the fence talking earnestly—she is telling him what they look like grazing in the shade, and he is telling what he paid.

I muse as I watch them. Years ago he left the heather hills of Scotland to learn the business of sugar refining in South Africa—this slender, nervous boy. It is easy to imagine him at his work, rejoicing in his youth, in the strangeness of it all, and especially in the glorious sunshine of this lit and perfumed country—and all the while, tucked away in the silences of the Scottish heart the deep and obstinate determination to own land somewhere, some day, and so to earn for himself again the ancient birthright of his race. And then the war—he went all through it—the long, arduous training in camp, the hardships and the fun, the grey dawns and the fierce exhilaration of action. He was twice recommended for the V.C. and lost his sight in a reckless gallant attempt to bring in some wounded comrades when the R.A.M.C. officer refused to let his men face the devastating fire.

Thank God, the hand of understanding was stretched wide for him and all his like. He had few relations, his parents were dead; one trembles to think how the future would have looked for him had it not been for that house of many mercies in Regent's Park, where he was taught to take life by the throat and shake laughter out of his days once more.

Evidently Mrs. Vintcent approves of the oxen, for they turn contentedly from the fence, and we walk down the orchards to his house for tea—the inevitable and very welcome cup of tea which every South African house will offer a morning caller. The house is beautifully cool and kind,—furnished with refinement and taste. Mrs. Vintcent tells me that it cost no more than the usual sum permitted for furnishing, but I know very well, being a house-proud woman, that more than money has gone to make this charming home—patience and time,

much love and care, and taste. Once more I envy the blind soldier lads of South Africa their gentle mother, and wish that every maimed, unhappy soldier in the world could come to so fair a port.

After tea we go into the study to see a very beautiful model of a poultry house which Mr. Crawford has made himself, and we have, after all, a little chat about his fowls—he is keeping Leghorns and Rhode Island Reds, and tells me, what I had already suspected during my stay in this country, that the poultry industry is hardly begun. An unlimited market waits for eggs and for table birds, the recent years of drought having reduced to very small figures the former and always inadequate stocks. "We never suffer from drought here in this part," he says gleefully. "The rainfall is nearly the same as it is in Great Britain, only more evenly distributed. Its an ideal place for fruit and fowls. My uncle is very pleased with our market prospects."

The uncle, who had just come out to join him, is not much older than the nephew, and they seem to be very good comrades. He has a canny young Scotch wife, and the two of them will make the blind man's home life very happy. They are entering into partnership with him, and the arrangement seems a very practical one.

As we go my host lays his slender fingers on my arm: "You have an echo," he says, "have we met anywhere, ever?" I am interested. "I feel as if I had seen you," I admit, "but how can one tell among the millions who passed through England to France? I seem to see you in a round cap pulled much on one side, with a little knob on top—a sort of tammy." "That was our cap," he laughs. "We were at Borden camp—may I have your picture?" He passes his finger tips lightly across my face. "It may be you," he mused. "Did you often drive a trooper to Longmoor Camp in a little Singer Car?"

Did I not. . . . The bright world quivers down to grey for a moment. . . . did I drive a little car to the cavalry lines. . . . "Yes," I say.

He laughs gaily. "You asked me the way to Liphook one day—we all knew your little green car, it often passed through our camp."

After this slender bond of memory we found mutual acquaintances and spent a jolly hour in discussing them. As we left I turned again to look once more. He stood on the

steps of his pretty white house, warmly companioned by the bright South African sun, on his lips still the smile which the singing memories of our talk of his fighting days had waked.

A BLIND VIOLINIST

MR. ARTHUR WYNNE, in the *New York World*, gives a short account of the life and artistic career of a blind Russian violinist, Abraham Haitowitsch. When in his second year Haitowitsch had a bad fall from a chair, which caused paralysis of the optic nerve. This happed at Ekaterinoslav, in Southern Russia, in 1896. When he was quite a little boy Haitowitsch developed a passion for music. His mother procured a violin, on which the boy was taught to play for his own amusement. As time went on he became ambitious to become a great violinist—to master the technique of his instrument and to play a Mendelssohn Concerto or a Grieg Sonata like Misha Elman or Efram Zimbalist. He wanted to play everthing—to obtain a repertoire, which generally includes from one hundred and fifty to two hundred concert pieces. And so he adapted the Braille system to his own musical needs, and converted into Braille all the different compositions for the violin which he had made up his mind to study and play. In time Haitowitsch progressed sufficiently to go to Petrograd, where he attended classes in the Imperial Conservatoire of Music. He appeared before the Czarina of Russia.

When the war broke out Abraham Haitowitsch went to Japan, and thence to the United States. He now lives in New York, transcribing music into Braille to add to his repertoire, practising hard and playing at recitals. The goal he has set himself is recognition as one of the greatest violinists of the day. This goal, it would seem, is not far from attainment, for, according to the criticism of the *Humanitarian Magazine*, "Haitowitsch is a genius, and will shortly rank with the greatest."

OOOO

NEVER order a man to do anything you are afraid to do yourself. *Gordon.*

OOOO

DIFFICULTIES are the things that show what men are. *Epictetus.*

HOW PETER FOUND SUNSHINE

(By Luck Williams)



IT was the land of The Other Side of Time, just on top of the rainbow, where everybody has been once, but never can remember what it is like. Acres and acres of little pink babies were there, scrambling and cuddling, playing and kissing, doing everything, but nothing in particular—just being happy. The Mother of All Babies told them they were waiting there for the big adventure, when each was to go to Earth-land. She cannot look after so many babies as there are on The Other Side of Time, and she has to keep giving them away to Earth-mothers to look after for her. Earth-land was mostly a very happy place for babies, she explained to them, and it was full of bright colours and sweet sounds and lovely happenings if only you troubled to look for such things. And each baby began to be a little impatient to start on the big adventure.

Every hour the Mother of All Babies gave a final drilling to the draft of babies that would be the next to go. And each tiny thing that was to be a boy or a girl was perfected in how to give its first look into its Earth-mother's eyes so that she would be its slave for ever; how to cry and wriggle if it was uncomfortable and wanted more food; how to scream a ceiling down if a nasty man held it in his cast-iron arms and put his bristly face against it; how "Daddy" must be the very first word to be spoken in the Earth-land tongue; how to chuckle and laugh and squirm its way into the hardest heart; in short, all the vast and subtle knowledge a baby must possess if it is to get on in Earth-land.

She told each what its name was to be—for, of course, that is decided long before the mothers and fathers of the earth make all sorts of silly suggestions, have arguments about it, and finally settle on the one that the baby tells them in its own way has been chosen for it in The Other Side of Time. If

you know any baby that has a name that does not fit it like the piece of cream fits inside a chocolate, then you may be sure that baby was careless enough to forget his proper one on his journey to the Earth-land.

In one draft there was a baby whose name was going to be Peter—if he did not forget it—and as the Mother of all Babies wished the draft good-bye for the last time her kiss for Peter was very, very tender, and her hug a little more lengthened and reluctant to yield; for Peter was to be different from the other babies.

The Earth-mother chosen to have Peter rose to The Other Side of Time, and taking him up, instantly started back to the Earth. It was a very perilous and dark journey, so Peter went to sleep.

When he awoke he knew he had arrived in the Earth-land in safety. "It must be night here," said Peter to himself in the language of The Other Side of Time, for everything was very dark. He went to sleep again. The second time he awoke it was still dark. Suddenly he heard the voice that he knew was his Earth-mother's, and it gave a terrible, agonised cry. She had just learned the truth. Peter was born blind. The fragile, tiny adventurer himself began to cry, too. Where were all the bright colours and pretty things the Mother of All Babies had told them were to be seen in the Earth land? It was always deep black night here, always night; for Peter did not know what being blind meant.

It is very hard to be a bright bonny baby when you are always surrounded by darkness. It is hard to learn to lisp "Daddy" to what is only a voice, and not to feel safe unless you hear the voice of your mother and feel her touch. And between these times there was nothing to do for Peter, no staring into the blue sky, dreaming of The Other Side of Time like most babies do, and wondering what this huge object and that was for. Nearly all the time he lay on his little back with nothing happier to do than listen to the

unintelligible sounds around him. Sometimes he kicked a little, sometimes he crooned to himself, and sometimes he cried, cried with the soft, choking sound peculiar to a blind baby.

Occasionally he crawled about, but there were hard things in this dark place that struck his little head, sharp things in the floor that tore the tender flesh of his tiny hands and knees. He longed to feel and touch and taste. That was all he could do. Sometimes the sounds he heard were horrible and hurt, and often the substances he put against his eager little tongue to try were unpleasant and made him whimper.

From the knowledge that babies get in *The Other Side of Time*—such as how to tell a nice person from a pleasant by merely looking at him—Peter understood that things were not as they should be, that somehow he was not having all the nice things that Earth-land promised babies. Sometimes he heard little footsteps, chuckling and

prattling which he knew came from those of his own tiny kind. Why was it he could not toddle and laugh and prattle? In his baby way he would wonder and wonder.

As he sat on the rough blanket that chafed his legs, he rocked his body slowly to and fro. And often his small fingers fumbled uneasily about the two sockets that held his dull, dead eyes. Perhaps in his plaintive moaning cries there was a baby prayer to the Mother of All Babies to fetch him away from this lonely Earth-land where it was always night. But she never seemed to hear.

One day Peter took another journey. It was a shorter one this time, full of joltings, for it was by train. When the joltings ceased there poured into Peter's little nostrils the

fresh country air, causing them to quiver with the new sensation. Next, he heard two words, and though he did not understand earth language as yet, he was soon to learn the deep meaning of those two particular words. They were just "Sunshine House."

The arms that he knew to be his mother's placed him into those of another, and somehow Peter forgot to be afraid at the miss of the familiar touch and voice, for he felt he was in a new world, where, though it was still dark, it was not so dreary and lonely.

His "new world" was merely a large house set in the countryside, where the air blew pure and sweet. It was a house in which all the rooms were big and brightly white, and on the walls were pretty pictures full of colour. Here, there, and everywhere was a patch of some warm hue, like fragments of a broken rainbow. The whole of that big white house and everything in it seemed to have been steeped in sunshine until it could hold no more and simply had to shine itself. In some



"HE CUDDLED QUEER-SHAPED THINGS" (p. 11)

way we cannot understand Peter knew how bright and pretty it was. He was coming as near as any little blind thing can into the happiness that is every baby's heritage.

In the first place, it was never lonely in this new world; there was always a voice near to soothe him when he cried, always a touch that coaxed his little face into chuckles if it showed signs of lapsing into sadness. And there was so much more crawling to be done here—nothing to bump his head against, no sharp things on which to tear his fingers and knees. Strangely pleasant sounds would break out in the house now and again, one particularly pleasurable, because Peter learned to know it was always followed by food, easier to swallow and nicer to taste than in the old days.

Certainly the voices and gentle hands did not encourage him to put his tongue against everything with which he came in contact and other unpleasant little habits that Peter had picked up through always being in darkness. But he found better things to do.

It was a tremendous business learning to walk. Ordinary babies of Peter's age could toddle splendidly, but it was a very insecure affair for a long time for Peter to stand on only one end of himself. When that was accomplished the world began to grow much bigger for the little man. Some parts of the day you played and danced to the sounds that tickled your ear so much—music, though Peter did not know it. And you sat on a tiny chair and cuddled queer-shaped things, soft to the touch, called "Teddy bears" and "elephants," and such like. Gradually Peter was picking up the earth language, and he listened eagerly to the descriptions of the pretty things, which, something told him, were in the darkness all about him.

But there was another reason why Peter never felt lonely. All around him were little creatures who toddled and played just as he did. They were babies, like himself, who thought it was always night-time in this Earth-land. They, too, were blind; and his sense of hearing and touch became so sharp that he could tell each of them by voice or just by a touch—John, Doris, Albert, and all the others.

Sometimes they went out of the house and played where the air smelled different, and romped on something soft called "grass." And Peter loved to search for little velvety things called "flowers," which sent delicately pleasant odours through the nostrils. Yes, it was great fun tumbling about on that soft cool carpet and hearing of the chirrupy things called in the Earth language "birds" and the deep blasts of sounds called "cows."

Occasionally there were strange voices in the world that Peter knew now by the name of "Sunshine House," voices you called "lady" or "gentleman" according to their quality. And these visitors sometimes let you ramble through their pockets, and held a smooth something against your ear that went tick-tick-tick with wonderful regularity. But Peter, keenly sensitive to human tones, never could understand why sometimes those strange voices would suddenly become shaky and husky, and often, held tenderly by two hands, his little body would be lifted off the floor and a face pressed against his.

And now we must leave Peter, for he is still living his own story. The last glimpse we have of him is as he lies silent in his mid-day nap by the side of the other blind babies. Through a loophole in the curtain a sunbeam steals and rests on his face, as though the sun is never tired of trying to melt its way through those little sightless eyes and light up the brain that dwells in everlasting darkness.

Where the light of the sun fails, the unseen sunshine that is born of beauty and cheerfulness and loving care is succeeding in creeping into Peter's heart and brain. The numb faculties are responding to the warmth of his surroundings, in his young life is being placed the spark of hope, which in later years will be fanned into a flame that will light his way through life.

If Peter had not been taken away from his home—one in which he was neglected and unhappy—not only would he have spent the saddest babyhood possible, but at the age of five he would have been half developed at best, and, painful as it is to say it, something of a little savage. The greatest pity of it is that there are so many Peters in England and only one "Sunshine House," which cannot hold more than twenty-five babies.

OOOO

A BLIND FARMER

MR. ERNEST SCHWIER, of Nether Hall Farm, Moreton, who has been blind since youth, displays wonderful abilities. More than twenty years ago he came to the village, and the result of his great fight against natural disabilities is that he is now farming 1,000 acres of land and has a dairy business.

He cultivates wheat, oats, barley and peas, and owns sheep, horses, cattle, and pigs. Everything is under his control, and lack of sight has been compensated by great mental power and alertness.

Amazing stories are told of his abilities. He is an excellent judge of cattle. By feeling a horse's teeth he can approximate its age, and he is a very good cattle doctor. He knows every inch of his farm, and can point out the shortest cuts to a passer-by. By feeling the grass with his foot he has been known to tell its grazing value, and he can always judge the growth and quality of a corn crop by feeling it with his hands.

Before taking up farming, Mr. Schwier was a professional musician in London.

THE BLIND IN SPAIN

AS it will doubtless be of interest to *Beacon* readers to hear of the conditions under which the blind are provided for in other countries, we give here some particulars respecting four institutions in Madrid.

These are : (1) the *Colegio de Santa Catalina de los Donados*, an ancient charitable institution which since 1850 has devoted itself exclusively to the blind. It is administered under the Ministry of the Interior by a director, teachers and Sister of Charity. The pupils number upwards of thirty.

(2) The *Asilo de Ciegos de la Purísima Concepción*, a private benevolent institution founded in 1912. Its chief concern is the care of the blind of both sexes. As well as the indigent blind, those able to pay for their maintenance are received at the rate of Ptas. 75 a month. Provision is made for the maintenance of 100 blind persons (50 of both sexes) of all ages from two to eighty-two years.

(3) The *Centro Instructivo y Protector de Ciegos*. The chief object of this institution is the relief of the blind in distress, but their training with a view to the improvement of their condition is also contemplated. Most of the staff are blind. Classes are held on literary and other subjects. Some fifteen to twenty pupils of both sexes receive an elementary education. The music classes (piano, violin, guitar, etc.) are the most popular, for a trifling knowledge enables blind persons to obtain alms. Twenty-five or thirty learn music.

(4) *Colegio Nacional de Sordomudos y Ciegos*. The patients receive some general education. Boys are taught typewriting, both girls and boys basket work.

The institutions at Madrid are not overcrowded, for although the blind are numerous they easily maintain themselves by begging, which in their case is permitted, and consequently they have commonly little inclination to resort to the institutions. The deaf mutes, on the other hand, are too helpless to maintain themselves by begging. Begging at Madrid is, however, practically unrestricted.

oooo

LIFE is short, the thorns are many ; let us not neglect any of its flowers. *Lytton.*

PENNSYLVANIA HOME TEACHING SOCIETY

ACCORDING to the report recently received from the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society and Free Circulating Library for the Blind, there are some 10,000 practically sightless persons in Pennsylvania. Of these there are 354 children in the two existing schools for the blind. It will therefore be seen that there is continuous work for the Society to accomplish among the adult blind of the State.

Dr. Harry Best, in his treatise on the blind of the United States, says of "Home Teaching" : "There have, no doubt, always been instances in the United States of the instruction of the blind in their homes, attempted by friends or relatives of favoured ones. As a formal proceeding it dates from the year 1882, when the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society and Free Circulating Library for the Blind was organised in Philadelphia. . . . In the friendly interest and counsel supplied in the person of the home teacher there is peculiar benefit."

From the Free Library of Philadelphia, where the Society's Library is deposited, 26,928 embossed books, in six types, were circulated during 1919 among 781 active borrowers residing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and other States, all expenses of circulation beyond the limits of Philadelphia being met by the Home Teaching Society.

oooo

AT the Birmingham Flower Show, held in Handsworth Park, the exhibit by the National Institute for the Blind was awarded an honorary gold medal. A number of orders were booked for goods made by men of St. Dunstan's. The exhibit included a supply of baskets from St. Dunstan's, a shorthand machine and Remington typewriter, specimens of appliances, games, models, and our new picture book for the blind. A blind stenographer was in attendance and created a considerable attraction.

oooo

IS NOT a great man rather one who, in a great position or amidst great opportunities serves God and his fellows with a humble heart ?
H. G. Wells.

A BLIND GARDENER

HARROW MAN'S SUCCESS WITH AN ALLOTMENT

THERE is a blind amateur gardener at Harrow, Mr. F. R. Marriott, the well-known masseur, a familiar figure in many hospitals.

When the call for food was insistent three years ago he took a piece of virgin land in Northwick Park, Harrow, broke it up, drained it, removed the tree roots, planted it, and last year obtained no less than 7 cwts. of potatoes from his allotment.

The allotment, naturally, is an object of curiosity, but without inside information there is nothing to distinguish it from its neighbours. The mind of the curious is naturally interested as to how such a result has been obtained. By sheer hard work and pluck and a determination to overcome obstacles.

Mr. Marriott, in a talk with a *Star* representative, said a blind allottee had many obstacles to overcome, but there are compensations of Mother Nature—namely, touch, smell, keen perception, and a love for it.

Touch, however, was the *via media*. The hand detected different plants chiefly by structure and temperature. Parsnips, for instance, were cold and thin, turnips were thick and “flushy” and warm, cabbages were thick and cold, and with characteristic humour, Mr. Marriott added: “Onions speak for themselves.”

If he was uncertain through touch, he brought the sense of smell to his aid.

Weeding was fairly easy. The plants were sown in exact rows, and it was pretty obvious that anything growing in between was a foreigner, and out it came. When sowing, he uses a line with distances marked by knots, and the extraordinary fact is, said Mr. Marriott, that if he lifted his eyes for a second from the place on which he was intent, he lost the sense of position.

Many people have visited his plot.

OOOO

A DANCE was being played by a gramophone at a recent entertainment for blind children, and one of the nurses tried to reinforce it on the piano. One of the children said, “The piano has not learnt the music as well as the gramophone.”

OOOO

KINDNESS is the golden chain by which society is bound together. *Goethe.*

JOHN B. HERRESHOFF, head of the family that has given America so many victories in the contests for the Cup, was a blind yet a successful yacht builder. On one occasion he was a guest at a party where the hostess was proudly displaying a cabinet just received from an antique shop in New York and bought for several hundred dollars as a product of the year 1710. It was observed by one of the other guests that Herreshoff alone refrained from favourable comment, although the old man had examined the cabinet by his delicate touch. Finding an opportunity, the man approached Herreshoff and asked him the reason for his silence. Herreshoff chuckled. “I’ll let you into a secret if you don’t breathe a word of it to the good Mrs. B——,” he said.

The promise was given. Herreshoff led the way with unerring directness to the cabinet, and, extracting a drawer, he ran the tips of his fingers lightly over the bottom and chuckled again:—

“Circular saws in 1710! Poor Mrs. B——!”

OOOO

IN submitting their Fifty-first Annual Report, the Directors of the Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind record successful results in many directions. The revenue from subscriptions is larger; a small grant of money has been received from the Government; the revenue from sales of goods made by the blind has materially increased; and the blind workers have benefitted by a substantial addition to their wages, which amounted to £5,358 2s. 3d. as against £4,137 5s. 6d. in the previous year. The gross sales amounted to £20,005 11s. 9d., as compared with £15,676 2s. 2d. for the last year. The activities of this Institution extend over the counties of Forfarshire, Perthshire and North Fife.

OOOO

THE BLIND PERSONS ACT

BLIND persons who are eligible for the pension provided for under this Act, and who are fifty years of age or over, should at once call at the nearest Post Office to their own home, apply for a form as supplied to the Old Age Pensioners, and complete such form, returning the same to the Post Office whence it was obtained. They will subsequently be visited by the Old Age Pensions Officer for the district and the usual questions put to them, after which a decision will be given as to whether they are eligible for the pension.

BLIND CURATE LICENSED

THE REV. P. C. NICHOLS, one of the very few blind clergymen in the Church of England, has been licensed by the Bishop of Manchester to the curacy of St. Clement's, Oldfield-road, Salford.

Mr. Nichols, who was formerly curate at Feltham, Middlesex, is not yet 30, and he took his B.A. degree at Oxford several years ago.

He is an accomplished musician, and when a *Daily Dispatch* representative sought an interview Mr. Nichols was busy preparing the choir for the morrow's services.

With a copy of the Psalms in Braille in his hand he had no difficulty in following the words and music, and from time to time would stop the choristers to give directions how the passage should be sung.

Mr. Nichols said he had no qualms about conducting his visiting nor any of the manifold duties of his curacy. "I shall find my way about by using common sense," he remarked.

Some time ago the Bishop of Southwark refused to sanction Mr. Nichols being licensed curate at Plumstead.

The licensing of a blind clergyman is by no means an innovation. The Rev. Canon Hawkins, who was forty-four years vicar at St. Cuthbert's Church, Lytham, was totally blind during the last twenty-two years of his office. Another blind rector was the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, who for fifteen years occupied the vicariate of Icomb, in Gloucestershire, and subsequently became incumbent of Belgrave Chapel, London.

A CHEERFUL SCHOLAR

THE *Daily News* has been offering prizes for the best accounts of cases of cheerfulness under adverse conditions. Amongst the numerous accounts published were several dealing with blind people, and we reproduce the following contribution which was sent from Palamcottah, in South India:—

"A little Brahmin girl was brought to our school for Deaf and Dumb Children, as she had been deserted by her parents. She was half-starved and deaf, dumb and blind. Her eyes were so diseased that they had to be removed at once.

"Evidently she had never known what kindness was, and at first seemed terrified when touched, but gradually the poor child found out we meant nothing but good will, and she began to thaw.

"By degrees I began to teach her by putting a ball into her hands and spelling the word on her hand. Her delight was so great when she understood that the sign meant the thing, and daily she learned a new word—the names of all the things she used. The work was slow, patience and perseverance were needed, both by teacher and pupil, but the child was clever and keen, and has now learned enough to be able to write a letter. She does this with her Braille machine, and from that types the words with an ordinary Blick typewriter. She knitted many comforters for our soldiers, and is the happiest girl in the school.

"The real secret of her happiness is in the declaration she signed at her Baptism: 'God loves me, I love Him.' A different creed from the thought that she is under the curse of some god, and therefore must be shunned by others."

oooo

A CENTENARIAN

WE quote the following paragraph from the July number of the Bulletin issued by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind: "One of our Home Teachers has the honour of extending her instruction in Moon Type to a lady whose year of birth was 1820. The lessons are reported as being very successful, and the pupil is making good progress. We congratulate both teacher and pupil, and hope that this example of courage and perseverance may be a lesson and inspiration to some faint-hearted one."

oooo

LAND'S END TO JOHN O'GROATS

THE "gentleman tramp" who undertook to walk from Land's End to John o'Groat's, collecting for St. Dunstan's on the way, concluded his thousand-mile walk on Saturday, August 7. Cheers were given as he approached John o'Groat's Hotel, and he was accorded a hearty Highland Welcome. On visiting Thurso on August 11 he was given a great reception, being played into the town by pipers, welcomed at a reception in the Town Hall, and entertained to luncheon by the provost.

MY WALK ALONG THE FRONT

By Basil Macdonald Hastings



I TAKE a walk of a certain length every morning, and I would like it to be a quiet walk. I would like to step from my house to the edge of the sea and walk two miles along its margin and two miles back again, talking to myself and grinning at my own mental jocosities. I don't want to be asked the time by children, even if they be clean, and I detest shoeblacks, boatmen

and bill distributors who presume on my simple appearance. But he would beachurl indeed who would not admit that there are occasionally compensations for the burden of geniality. We are honoured in our town by a branch of St. Dunstan's, and when some of the blind stroll across my path I know there will be laughter and a dissipation of the clouds which they never seem to see. So it was this morning.

Charlie, it seems, last night dropped his watch. (Poelcapelle was the last place he saw, and he is but forty-three years of age.) Now Charlie, in addition to being blind, is partially deaf. The watch had dropped from under his pillow and neither nurse nor orderly was about. Charlie could not bear the idea of sleeping warm in bed with his beloved watch lying cold on the bleak linoleum, and he therefore lowered himself to the floor. For a time he fumbled, but no

watch was to be found. Then, very shrewdly, he put his ear to the floor and listened for the ticking. Hearing nothing (because Charlie is really very, very deaf), the good lad slithered around, and soon was rewarded by a sound which proved him to be close to his unsmashable timekeeper. But, grope as he would, no watch came under Charlie's hand. Just then the orderly arrived, and, picking Charlie up, put him back to bed. Next he picked up Charlie's watch, and threatened

to tie it round the delinquent's neck.

"Where was I?" giggled Charlie; "where in 'Eaven did I get to, Arthur?"

"You was outside in the lobby," was the reproachful but kindly reply, "lyin' on the floor with your arms round the matron's grandfather clock."

On my return stroll this morning I encounter two

more of my blind acquaintances. I tell them Charlie's story, and am rewarded with joyous guffaws. But one says he has a yarn that will make a pair anyway.

"See this ring on my left hand, sir? I dropped it once when I was ready for bed, just as Charlie dropped his watch. I couldn't bear the idea of sleepin' without it, so I started feelin' about on the floor. I couldn't find the blessed thing, of course, and do you know what I did, sir? . . . Force of 'abit, of course . . . I struck a match."



(Photo: Debenhams, Longman & Co.)

AT THE OPENING OF THE ST. DUNSTAN'S HOME AT CHELTENHAM

CHess IN LITERATURE AND HISTORY



NO game has gained a more prominent place in literature and in history than chess—"the game of kings." In drama, in fiction and in biography references to the game abound; and there are numerous stories of the performances of distinguished persons at the chess-board from the earliest times.

One of the first instances in drama that comes to mind is the scene in "The Tempest," where Ferdinand and Miranda are found playing at chess, and Ferdinand denies the gentle impeachment, "Sweet lord, you play me false."

Tennyson pictures Henry II and Becket engaged in a friendly chess contest in his play of "Becket," and he does so with historic accuracy. The King, preoccupied with weightier matters, falls a victim to the churchman's wiles. He is a bad loser, and, kicking over the board, exclaims: "Why, there then—down go bishop and king together; I loathe being beaten."

The Duc de Beaufort, imprisoned at Vincennes, in "Twenty Years After," was "immersed in the sublime combinations of chess." Like King Henry, he makes blunder upon blunder through inattention, and is easy game. In the same book, Dumas appears to give credence to the tradition that Henry IV, the evening before he was assassinated, was playing at chess and saw clots of blood upon the board.

Oliver Wendell Holmes had a keen insight into the game, and his allusions to it are many. In "The Professor at the Breakfast Table" there is a striking metaphor where the mother of Iris, "seated with her companion at the chess-board of matrimony, had but just pushed forward her one little white pawn upon an empty square, when the black knight, that cares nothing for castles or kings and queens, swooped down upon her and swept her from the larger board of life."

Holmes invokes the aid of another chess comparison in the same book when he remarks upon "the nice shades that separate

the skilful players." The life of Catherine Gladstone, by her daughter, Mary Drew, records that Mrs. Gladstone showed no little skill at chess: "The tradition survives that Mrs. Gladstone beat Mr. Gladstone, that Mrs. Gladstone beat Lord Lyttelton, and that Lord Lyttelton beat Mr. Gladstone."

Probably the earliest reference in literature to chess was that by the Persian poet Firdusi, who, in his historical poem, "Shahnama," mentions the introduction of the game into Persia.

In "The Young Tamlane" we read that

Four-and-twenty ladies fair
Were playing at the chess.

It is worth recalling that the first book Caxton printed in England was a translation of a treatise on the game written about 1300 by Jacobus de Cessolis, a preaching friar.

Scott is said to have objected to learning chess because the time it would occupy would be sufficient to learn two languages. On the other hand, Henry Thomas Buckle was one of the finest players of his day. John Huss, when in prison, deplored having played at chess "whereby he had lost time and run the risk of being subject to violent passions."

It is a curious circumstance that most great generals were poor chess-players. Marshal Saxe was an exception; and Napoleon relieved the tedium of life on St. Helena by playing with a quaintly-carved set. One king was fashioned in his own image and the other represented Frederick the Great, the other pieces showing the respective uniforms of the two leaders.

There are many evidences that Canute was an enthusiast. Carlyle, in his "Early Kings of Norway," relates that a dispute arose between Canute and Earl Ulf when at chess, that the earl upset the board, and was murdered shortly afterwards by Canute's orders. The *Ramsey Chronicle* records that Canute, visited on State matters by Bishop Utheric, was found at chess and dice with his courtiers.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—No. 46.

OCTOBER, 1920.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL



IN his speech on the occasion of the recent opening of Suffolk Hall, Cheltenham, as a Convalescent Home for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, Sir Arthur Pearson made use of an expression which must needs have arrested the attention of each one of his listeners. He said that the great secret of learning how to overcome the handicap of blindness consisted in gaining the point of view that it was neither an affliction nor a calamity, but should rather be accepted as an opportunity. "Accepted as an opportunity." This is a thought that was very likely entirely new to many of Sir Arthur's audience. It is a great thought. If each one of us could but learn to face his own misfortunes, his own failings even, in the spirit of those words, the world would become a better and certainly a far more cheerful place of abode.

"Learn to accept your misfortunes as opportunities." Let us consider this saying from the point of view of the man or woman who has suddenly become plunged in eternal darkness. The first realisation of blindness must surely bring with it complete bewilderment and despair—a cessation of all interests, of all power of productive activity. And then, to the man or woman of indomitable soul comes light—a gradual realisation that his or her own special talents may yet be turned to account in a world new and strange, which may still prove to be a world of infinite opportunities for work, for play, for love for laughter, for tears, for rest. The great opportunity that is given to the blind man when he has once started on a profession is that he is able to concentrate more fully on

one subject than is his sighted brother. There are for him less outside distractions. He is shut in, as it were, in his own little world of thought. And by that we do not mean to say that he is debarred from mental intercourse with other minds—that, as all friends of and workers among the blind know, is by no means the case—but that when he is obliged to concentrate on a production of the brain he has the *advantage* of not being distracted by things which are seen. Then too, he has to learn to be accurate in his work, and though the lesson can only be acquired slowly by the blind man, he must needs acquire it in an even greater degree than the sighted worker. Take the example of type-writing. We all know what a degree of accuracy can be attained by the blind typist, but for him there can be no erasure of mistakes, no re-typing of letters in a mis-spelt word. *He has had to acquire accuracy*, and his blindness has given him the opportunity of doing so.

Think, too, of the fields of imagination which are open to the blind who are in possession of this gift. They hear of beautiful things and places, they have them described to them, and they can endow them with beauty which far transcends reality. Ugly things are shut away from the blind—whether this be an absolute blessing or the contrary is open to discussion, for reality, however ugly, has to be faced and dealt with—but it may also be argued that "what the eye does not see the heart does not grieve over."

"Accept blindness as an opportunity." May we go one step further, and say "Blindness is an opportunity for service"? If we look around and contemplate the noble professions that the blind are enabled to follow, we see that this is in many instances the case.

Of the men and women who have, for example, chosen the career of massage, there are probably many who would have followed far different callings had they been able to see. Massage is one of the professions for which the blind are especially well adapted. And so in the case of these sightless healers of the sick a handicap has been verily converted into an opportunity for service.

Of late years many new callings and professions have been opened up to the blind—in many cases with unqualified success. The attitude of the general public towards the sightless has turned from one of pity to that of admiration and a genuine desire to help on the work of bringing within their grasp all possible means of instruction and of recreation. So vast is the improvement in the methods of the care and the education of the blind, that a new era has dawned in their welfare. They are able to compete with the sighted in many callings of life, and in many cases they excel. And the blind possess this one supreme advantage—they have the goodwill and the sympathy of all.

Surely, therefore, each misfortune has its compensations, and may be turned to good account, for, as J. M. Blake has said :

“Out of the hands of pain and suffering more gifts have come to men than from any other source.”

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920

CLAIMS TO PENSIONS

UNDER the Blind Persons Act, 1920, which came into operation on the 10th September, 1920, the statutory age for the receipt of an old age pension in the case of a person who is “so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential” is reduced from seventy to fifty.

If a person desires to claim a pension under the above Act, he or she can obtain a form at the local post office. The postmaster will give any necessary help in filling up the form, and will furnish the address of the local Pension Officer, to whom, after the form has been filled up it should be posted or delivered. On receipt of the claim the Officer will investigate it and then submit it to the local Pension Committee. All claims should be made at once so that they may be investigated and allowed as soon as possible.

The following summary of the law is only intended as a general guide for the

information of claimants, to enable possible claimants to decide whether it is worth while their making a formal application for a pension. Full information on any particular point can be obtained from the local Pension Officer.

Before a pension can be granted, a claimant must prove that he or she satisfies the following conditions :—

- (1) He or she must be so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential.
- (2) He or she must have reached the age of fifty.
- (3) He or she must have been a British subject for at least the past ten years.
- (4) He or she must have been resident in the United Kingdom for at least twelve years since attaining the age of thirty years.
- (5) The yearly means must not exceed £49 17s. 6d. The limits of means for the various rates of pensions are as follows :—

- (a) In the case of a claimant who is one of a married couple living together in the same house :—

Where the combined means of husband and wife—

	Rate of Pension
Do not exceed £52 10s. a year	10s.
Exceed £52 10s. a year and do not exceed £63	8s.
Exceed £63 a year and do not exceed £73 10s.	6s.
Exceed £73 10s. a year and do not exceed £84	4s.
Exceed £84 a year and do not exceed £94 10s.	2s.
Exceed £94 10s. a year and do not exceed £99 15s.	1s.
Exceed £99 15s.	No pension

- (b) In other cases :—

	Pension
Where the yearly means do not exceed £26 5s.	10s.
Where the yearly means exceed £26 5s. and do not exceed £31 10s.	8s.
Where the yearly means exceed £31 10s. and do not exceed £36 15s.	6s.
Where the yearly means exceed £36 15s. and do not exceed £42	4s.
Where the yearly means exceed £42 and do not exceed £47 5s.	2s.
Where the yearly means exceed £47 5s. and do not exceed £49 17s. 6d.	1s.
Where the yearly means exceed £49 17s. 6d.	No pension

Ministry of Health,

Whitehall, S.W. 1,

26th August, 1920.

oooo

HELP us to play the man. . . . with
laughter and kind faces. *R. L. Stevenson.*

oooo

MR. EDWARD WATSON (Musical Publications Adviser, National Institute for the Blind) has been appointed organist and choir-master of Holy Trinity Church, Tulse Hill, S.E.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND



THE Report of the National Institute for the Blind for fifteen months—a period adopted in conformity with the wishes of the Advisory Committee for the Welfare of the Blind—gives in a concise form a record of the work of the Institute during that period. As regards the youngest members of the blind community, the twenty-five blind babies at Sunshine House, Chorley

Wood, are doing well. They are being taught to grow up as normal human beings, and are receiving every care and attention in an atmosphere conducive to health and happiness. It is hoped that sufficient funds will be forthcoming to enable the Institute to equip more Sunshine Houses, and to accomplish its ideal of caring for every blind baby in the land. Another branch of the Educational Department deals with children up to the age of sixteen. Eighty-nine such cases were reported during the year.

We now turn to the important feature of Higher Education, and find that to Worcester College for Blind Boys a sum of well over £9,000 was allocated by the Institute during the year 1919. A large quantity of educational works in Braille was also supplied to the College free of charge, and it is proposed to provide additional buildings at the school which will raise it to a still higher level of excellence. As regards the higher education of blind girls, a fine mansion known as the "Cedars" is about to be opened as a Blind Girls' College at Chorley Wood, and here the standard of education and of comfort will be of the highest order. Fees amounting to more than £2,600 have also been paid to various institutions for training and educational purposes.

We now come to a very important factor in the subject of education—the provision of books. During the fifteen months under review (January, 1919—March, 1920) the following publications were issued by the Institute :—

BRaille PUBLICATIONS :

<i>Literature :</i>	Bound Volumes	...	...	25,891
	Pamphlets	...	...	17,561
	Magazines	...	...	56,699
	Instruction Cards	...	...	2,725
	Newspapers	...	...	127,064
<i>Music :</i>	Bound Volumes	...	...	2,798
	Pieces of Music	...	...	22,585
				<hr/> 255,323 <hr/>

Braille Book Plates produced :

Literature (including newspapers and magazines)	24,620
Music	3,343
<hr/> 27,963 <hr/>	

MOON PUBLICATIONS :

Bound Volumes	...	...	10,043
Pamphlets, Magazines, etc...	...	...	16,289
<hr/> 26,332 <hr/>			

Moon Book Plates produced 7,872

The material for all the Braille books is supplied by an Editorial Department, which is also responsible for the issue of fourteen Braille magazines and newspapers and for a monthly letterpress magazine. To the National Library for the Blind the Institute presented 3,600 volumes of new publications in Braille, besides 1,408 pieces of music and various pamphlets ; also 2,700 volumes in Moon type. Mention must be made of the Music Department attached to the Institute ; the output of music for the year contains a fine range of musical works.

At the Massage Branch of the Institute 29 students were trained for the massage certificate of the Chartered Society of Massage and Remedial Gymnastics ; 23 students passed the Special Remedial Exercises Examination of the same society, and 58 successfully qualified in the Institute's Medical Electricity Examination.

The report of the Home Teaching Branch is one of steady progress, nearly 56,000 visits having been paid by its 34 teachers.

One of the most important departments of the Institute is that of the After-Care of Blind Civilians. During the period under review 1,248 cases of blindness were brought

to the notice of this department, bringing the total of names on the register up to 4,967.

Assistance was given to 1,856 blind people, of whom 101 have been undergoing training in some occupation in which they were financed by the Institute. Fifty-two persons have received the benefit of seaside holidays, visits to convalescent homes, free provision of surgical appliances, etc. Pensions for twenty-five people have been secured. The total sales of the After-Care Sales Depôt have this year realised the sum of £12,468, and we would remark here that the blind maker is paid the full retail price.

Attention must be called to two new departures of the Institute's work, namely, the Design Department, which is concerned with the embossing of maps and diagrams and the construction of models for schools, and the Inventions and Research Committee, which consists of a number of experts whose duty it is to deal with all new ideas in appliances for the use of blind people, and also to take up any suggestions or new fields of activity

where blind workers are concerned.

In conclusion brief mention must be made of the departments concerned with the well-being of the workers themselves—of the Blind Girls' Club at Langham Street which accommodates thirty-eight blind and partially sighted girls, and of the Welfare Department at the Institute itself, which is concerned with the giving of first-aid to both blind and sighted members of the staff.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

WE have received the following particulars concerning the Department for the Blind at the Library of Congress, Columbia, U.S.A. The Library of Congress, in so far as its collection permits, lends books in all types to readers throughout the United States of America. Their cir-

culation runs into thousands each month, and books go to every State in the Union. The collection of books embraces all the types used in America and in Europe, and all the periodicals for the blind as well as ink print magazines concerning the work of the blind are subscribed for. Apparatus for the use of the blind and specimens of the handwork of blind persons are displayed at the Library.

The Library of Congress is the National Library, and its department for the blind is

regarded as an information bureau concerning the blind.

oooo

THE National Institute for the Blind has pleasure in stating that the Braille edition of Pearson's Easy Dictionary is now complete, in 12 volumes (large interpoint, standard character type). The price is 2s. 6d. per volume (postage extra).



The Valentin Haüy Association sends to blind soldiers who have children a special spelling book in which each letter is printed both in ordinary characters which the child reads, and in relief characters which the father makes out with his fingers. Thus the father can teach his child to read.

HOW I BECAME A MODELLER

(By Hugo Moudry—Translated by W. P. Merrick)



THE following account of his success in an occupation unusual for a blind man appeared in the May number of the *Esperanto Ligilo*, translated from an Austrian Braille magazine. It affords a good example of initiative displayed by a man who had lost his sight in middle life. In publishing the Esperanto version, Mr. Thilander says that Moudry's fame extends far beyond Austria, and that he was then learning Esperanto. His death was recorded in a subsequent number of the *Ligilo*. The "pin-writing" referred to below is, or was, much used in Austria for communicating with sighted friends. The paper is impressed by single types, each with a Roman letter formed by pin-points at its lower end:—

"It was in 1900 that I was attacked by cataract, and after an unsuccessful operation became totally blind. I had, therefore, to give up my career in the Revenue Office and accept a pension when barely thirty-five years old. Unable to find an occupation suitable to my position, deprived of my customary occupations—reading and drawing—prevented from continuing my many official duties, and with a pension of less than half my former salary, I quite lost heart. A little more and I should have taken my own life, but from this I was deterred by consideration for those who were dear to me.

"Seeing my misery, my wife's relations persuaded me to quit Tribau—a town in Moravia to which my last official appointment had brought me—and remove to Prague and go into the Klar Institution and learn how to bear my lot by coming into contact with other blind persons.

"A little before we left Tribau a friend came to see me. He advised me to try my hand at modelling. This made me very angry. 'What suggestions people still make to the blind!' I cried. He said that as I was such an excellent draughtsman it was at any rate possible that I might be able to model. Still, I could not get the idea into my head.

"On entering the institution I was very kindly received and told what I should be taught. One of the first questions the director asked me was whether I would not like to do some modelling, as many blind people went in for this occupation. At this I wondered greatly, but consented to try. Having in a short time learnt the raised 'pin-writing' and Braille—contracted as well as uncontracted—I made my first experiments in modelling. I was given a lump of clay, and I set to work, at first listlessly and timidly, but soon with ever increasing hopefulness. My first art-products were simple, smooth vessels with round handles. Soon I ornamented these with oak leaves and acorns. Then I fashioned convex vessels and jugs with ivy leaves. Later, various objects—vine leaves with grapes; lastly, animals—bears, dogs, and even human figures, which, however, were not perfect in form. I then ventured upon flowers—roses and daisies. I ornamented bellied vessels with grapes, vine leaves, and other foliage. I furrowed the outsides of pots to make them look like tree-stumps. Finally, I tried to imitate plaiting. Without any guidance or instruction I had begun to model.

"But at the institution they no longer wished to see me model. They taught me to use the typewriter, and I had to learn chair-plaiting, at which I never excelled. I left the institution after having stayed there about a year, from the beginning of May, 1901 to the middle of July, 1902.

"In 1912 I first took part in an exhibition and obtained a prize for being self-taught. I had made myself very proficient and I began in subsequent exhibitions to attract the attention not only of the public, but also of the press. At Prague I obtained the silver medal, and also one at Auszig; at Olmitz I gained the gold medal, and at the International Hunters' Exhibition at Vienna was awarded the silver medal.

"I use no tools but shape everything, even the most complicated objects, with my hands alone. All kinds of pottery and receptacles are made in sections, as are also

large figures, for these two are hollow. Furrows on the outside, and little notches in leaves are made with my nails; the sides of leaves are pressed with my fingers; plait-work is added; roses and other flowers which are difficult to shape are put together leaf by leaf. Even the heads and faces of animal and human figures are formed with my hands. I had to acquire the necessary delicacy of touch and all the tricks of technique without any instruction by long and painstaking practice. But in spite of this, it occurs sometimes even now that some work does not go well, and I have to begin it over again two or three times. It is only natural that I can get on better with pottery-work than with figures. Figures are in themselves more difficult to form, and it is here that one is most sensible of the lack of tools. I work in clay, wax, china-clay, as well as in 'chamotte'* and terracotta. These two last materials I still use."

THE APPLICATION OF THE WAR CHARITIES ACT

THE Ministry of Health, in a letter to voluntary agencies, directs attention to the provisions of Section 3 of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, by which the provisions of the War Charities Act, 1916, are re-enacted and applied, with certain modifications, to charities for the blind.

The effect of the application of the War Charities Act to charities for the blind is that it shall no longer be lawful to make a public appeal for donations or subscriptions in money or in kind for any charity for the blind, or attempt to raise money by a bazaar, sale, entertainment, or exhibition, or by any similar means for any such charity unless (1) the charity is registered under the Act and (2) the committee or other governing body of the charity has given approval in writing to such appeal or attempt to raise money. Any contravention of this provision is an offence against the Act, and is punishable, on summary conviction, by a fine of not more than £100, or imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for not more than three months.

Any question whether a charity is a charity for the blind is to be finally determined by

the Charity Commissioners. The Act does not apply to any collection at divine service in a place of public worship or to any charity for the blind which may be exempted from registration under the Act.

The registration authorities are the Common Council of the City of London, the London County Council, the Council of the County Borough, and the County Council, in their respective areas.

Local appeals to the public for the benefit of charities for the blind by means of flag days and similar collections, sales and entertainments are not themselves charities for the blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act, and do not require to be registered or exempted as such, but in order that they may comply with the provisions of the Act and the regulations made thereunder, it is necessary that each of the central organisations for the benefit of which the appeal is made should have been registered as a charity for the blind; that the approval in writing of the committee or other governing body of the central organisation or organisations for the benefit of which the appeal is made has been obtained; and that the name of the charity as appearing in the certificate of registration shall be stated in full in all posters, bills, circulars, advertisements and notices relating to the appeal, with the addition of the words "Registered under the Blind Persons Act, 1920."

oooo

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MESSAGE LIBRARY

Hypnotic Suggestion and Psycho Therapeutics; by A. Betts Taplin. In 2 volumes.

Compression Neuritis; by Sir W. I. de C. Wheeler (pocket edition).

Note on the Posterior Nerve Roots of Spinal Cord; by E. P. Cumberbatch (pocket edition).

Osteopathy; by J. Martin Littlejohn (pocket edition).

Treatment of Muscles by Artificial Stimulation; by G. Cooper (pocket edition).

oooo

MR. S. W. HEDGER, formerly Assistant Manager and Librarian of the Sydney Industrial Blind Institution has been appointed Superintendent and Secretary of the Royal Victorian Institution for the Blind, Melbourne, and took up his duties in April last. Mr. Hedger's wide experience and practical knowledge of all matters pertaining to the blind make him eminently fitted for his new sphere of duty.

* This is evidently some kind of material used in modelling and known in Austria and perhaps elsewhere.

DEFECTIVE EYESIGHT

(By the School Oculist)



SOME observations with regard to defects of vision may be of service in promoting co-operation between the educational and medical staffs. Defect of vision is commonly due to the shape of the eye, this being such that rays of light do not focus accurately on the retina. The defect can be remedied by the use of suitable lenses in the form of spectacles. In some cases the defect is considerably greater in one eye than in the other, and when a child so affected starts to use his eyes for near objects—say at the age of three—the obscured image formed by the more defective eye causes confusion, perhaps actual double vision. This confusion is minimised by the occurrence of squint, whereby the less distinct image is relegated to a less sensitive portion of the retina, and becomes so faint as to be ignored altogether. Such a child has not got binocular vision, and sees things in one plane only. Also the vision of the squinting eye rapidly deteriorates, and after a few months treatment becomes difficult or impossible. When the sight has practically gone the eye often becomes straight again. Some parents are aware of the latter fact, but do not appreciate the former. It will thus be understood that the treatment of squint is an urgent matter, and no time should be lost in presenting all such cases for examination at the first possible opportunity. In many cases, treatment ought really to begin before the child enters school. After a child has obtained glasses it is important that he should wear them continuously, and teachers can do a great service by insisting on this continuous use during school hours, and sending a child home for his glasses should he arrive without them. Great additional assistance can also be rendered in cases of squint; a child with squint should have the good eye covered up for, say, one hour daily when he is using his eyes for near work, and this can be done most conveniently, or at any rate most certainly, at school.

Sometimes the muscles of the eye are capable of correcting the focus of the refracting system of the eye completely, so that no actual defect of vision appears; this is so, particularly at the younger ages. The continuous contraction of the muscles causes eye-strain, which becomes more apparent with increasing years, and takes the form of headaches, sore eyelids, "running together" of words after reading awhile. Cases of this kind should be presented at the medical inspection. It is impossible always to be certain of the diagnosis of these cases, except with the conveniences at the disposal of an oculist (not an optician), and friction has sometimes arisen in the past because parents have taken their children to the school clinic or elsewhere at some expense, only to be told finally that no glasses are required. This friction might perhaps be avoided if parents understood beforehand that their first visit to the oculist was for diagnostic purposes only. This would naturally be explained by the Medical Inspector, but unfortunately parents do not invariably attend the inspection. In these circumstances and in those areas where the teaching staff are acquainted with the parents of individual children, the matter could be explained when a convenient opportunity arose.

A final point should be mentioned . . . it is that cases of bad eyesight should not be sent by a teacher direct to the ophthalmic clinic. Appointments in rotation are made from the Central Office, the names and addresses being extracted from the Medical Log Books, and sufficient numbers are asked to attend to fill up the whole of the time available.

—*Kent Education Gazette.*

OOOO

BLIND folk can have a free copy of the Blind Persons Act, in Braille, upon application to the Secretary-General, National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, W.1, or from the secretary of any of the Institute's branches.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE BLIND*

(By Edmund Gosse)



THE lamentable spectacle of blindness with which the war has made us dreadfully familiar has led to a very wide discussion of the means by which life may be rendered endurable and even enjoyable to these victims of the cruelty of man to man. But the particular form of blindness which has simultaneously occupied the attention of two of the most eminent writers now living is not that caused by the mutilations of the battlefield. Both M. Gide and M. Claudel weave their story round cases of infantile ophthalmia—in one case curable at an advanced age, in the other not.

Ever since another Frenchman, Louis IX., began, in the thirteenth century, to pay attention to the fate of the blind, there has been some curiosity as to the restrictions and possibilities of those who, to use the Biblical phrase, look out of darkened windows, but it is little more than one hundred years since Edward Rushton—a name ever to be held in honour—started the earliest of those schools for the blind which are happily now so numerous. In the remarkable work before me the author's point of departure is scarcely pathological, but ethical. The writer illustrates, not merely the effect of the external world on the cloistered intelligence of a blind person, but how the presence of that person may affect those whose sight is sound.

There is no more exquisite talent now active in Europe than that of M. André Gide. He stands apart from the various schools of authorship, and while he seems to be in occasional sympathy with them all, he is plainly affiliated to none. His own work follows no particular line, and, except in style, it is difficult to see any unity of purpose in the Gide who is paradoxical in "Paludes," whimsical in "L'Enfant Prodigue," farcical in "Les Caves du Vatican," and sinister in

"L'Immoraliste." But there is one Gide who shines beyond all the rest—the delicate and translucent mirror of humility who has given us "La Porte Etroite" and "Isabelle." It is to this facet of the protean moralist that we owe "La Symphonie Pastorale," which must rank with his finest creations in this sphere which is so pre-eminently his own.

The wandering quality in M. Gide is very remarkable; I know no recent writer in whom it is so marked. We observe him in one mood, and we prepare to accompany him; but night comes on, and in the morning he has folded his tent like an Arab and has disappeared. But happily the nomad has a trick of returning, and here to-day he is again as we like him best, placid, austere and evangelical. Let us take advantage of his momentary return, since to-morrow he will doubtless be off to fresh woods and pastures new.

The form in which "La Symphonie Pastorale" is conceived is that of extracts from the diary of a Protestant Swiss pastor, whose name is not divulged. He exercises a cure of souls in a mountain village of the Jura, in the canton of Neuchâtel, not far from La Chaux-de-Fond. One afternoon he is called by a child to come to the help of an old woman living in a remote part of his parish, and he drives there immediately in his gig, guided by the child. He finds the old woman already dead and watched by a neighbour. In the corner of the hovel squats what looks like a heap of rags, but proves to be a girl of about fifteen, the niece and last survivor of the old woman's family. The neighbour knows nothing about her, save that she was born blind, and seems to be almost an idiot. She never speaks nor responds to the human voice, this being explained (I think a little lamely) by the statement that her old aunt, being herself stone-deaf, never addressed a word to her. She will have to go to the workhouse or the civic asylum.

An immense pity surges up in the heart

*"La Symphonie Pastorale." Par André Gide. 15 fr. Paris: Nouvelle Revue Française.

of the impulsive and sentimental pastor, and he determines without reflection that he will adopt this waif and stray. He lifts her into his gig, and drives her to his home. She is incapable of response, and sinks like an inert mass at his feet. They arrive at the manse, and then the difficulties of the situation begin to occur to him. His wife, a practical and unimaginative matron, already has difficulty in bringing up their considerable family of boys and girls, and desires nothing so little as a blind, perhaps imbecile, and certainly extremely dirty addition to her charge.

However—and this part of the tale is told with extraordinary humour and penetration—Amélie (for that is the name of the pastor's wife) belongs to the class whose bark is worse than their bite. She expatiates in arguments to show that this proposed act of hospitality is preposterous, and that, for her part, five unruly children of her own are as much, and more, than she can put up with. She storms, and the pastor reflects. Wisely he lets Amélie rave; presently her own native benevolence asserts itself, and after various vicissitudes of temper and despair her motherly instinct gets the upper hand, and she begins to take a pleasure in making the best of Gertrude, for that they decide is to be the blind orphan's name.

But while Amélie and the children find the newcomer more and more a subject of interest, the flame of the pastor's romantic zeal sinks into the ashes of disappointment. The indifference of the child, her obstinate obtuseness, and particularly the hard expression which comes over her face when any one approaches her, reward all kindness with hostility. A famous surgeon from the Val Travers is summoned, and tells the family at the manse that they have no cause for despair. The physical and moral development of the poor girl are alike retarded, but her blindness is her only positive defect. The pastor now patiently begins her education, in which he follows the celebrated example of Laura Bridgman, and his success is continuous and complete.

The parallel is to Gertrude's advantage, for it will be remembered that the marvellous American was not merely blind but a deaf-mute as well. The difficulty in Laura's case, a difficulty which long seemed insuperable, was that of penetrating to consciousness at all where every communicating sensation, except touch, was absent. But the resemblance of M. Gide's sympathetic

heroine to Laura Bridgman consists in the rapidity with which her native intelligence responds to persistent stimulus from without. The pastor is indefatigable, and as his pupil expands and responds, her claim upon his tender care develops into an absorbing affection, the nature of which he is too naïve to perceive. It does not, however, escape the jealous attention of Amélie, nor the curiosity of his own eldest son, who is only a year older than Gertrude.

A climax is reached; the blind girl is about eighteen years of age, when the pastor takes her into Neuchâtel to a concert, where the Pastoral Symphony is performed. The music exercises an overwhelming effect upon Gertrude's senses, and seems to break down the last moral and intellectual barrier between her and the normal world, her blindness only excepted. She is like one drowned in ecstasy, and she asks, "Is what you see really as beautiful as that?" the harmonies of the composer having painted for her, as it were, a new world, not as we see it, but ineffable in innocence and purity. These transcendental emotions merely inflame to a still higher pitch the passion of the unfortunate and self-deluded pastor.

But a blow falls. He is in his chapel one day while Gertrude, who has been taught to play, is improvising on the organ. The pastor's eldest son, Jacques, enters without seeing his father, who watches the expression on Gertrude's face as she welcomes one who, evidently, addresses her as a lover. The pastor steals out, stunned but unobserved, his whole aspect of life changed by this revelation. The reader must follow for himself the extremely moving and ingenious scenes which now depict the struggles of the father to retain his false position, the mute but determined resistance of the mother, the piety of the son, and the purity and unconsciousness of the innocent blind enthusiast, moving in her radiant darkness among these tormented souls. At length the surgeons decide that Gertrude's eyes may be safely operated on, and this is performed with entire physical success; but with her blindness she loses her joy, her serenity, and her unconsciousness of evil, so that the pang of discovery is too sharp for her to endure. She dies, and Jacques, abjuring the Protestant tradition, enters the Church of Rome and takes vows of celibacy. For them all, for the heartbroken pastor himself most of all, the whole episode is a commentary on the divine words, "If ye were

blind ye would not have sin ! " In her cecity Gertrude knew no law and lived. But when her world was invaded by light the commandments asserted themselves and she could not do otherwise than die.- *Sunday Times*.

SIGHT TESTS

SOME interesting tests have been made in the German Army to find out at what distance a soldier with good eyes can recognize a person he has seen once before. It was found that a soldier with good eyes could see at a distance of 80 feet, and recognize an acquaintance at a distance of 300 feet, and an intimate friend or relative at a distance of 500 feet.

An expert rifleman can distinguish the various parts of a man's body and detect any decided movement at a distance of 300 feet.

A man appears as a spot on the landscape at 1,800 feet, and cannot usually be seen if he keeps still, or if his dress does not contrast with the background. Sailors, hunters, and farmers can usually see twice this distance, probably on account of their constant training in making out the nature of distant objects.

OOOO

To advise the ignorant, relieve the needy, comfort the afflicted, are duties that fall in our way almost every day of our lives.

Addison.

BLIND FRENCH OFFICER'S TRIUMPH

ALTHOUGH completely blind as the result of wounds received in the war, Lieut. René Leroy will shortly take up his duties of engineer in the Department of Roads and Bridges in France.

He recently passed a stiff examination, coming out at the head of those who studied at the Polytechnic.

Lieutenant Leroy, who is twenty-five, was wounded at the battle of the Aisne. As soon as he left hospital he returned to the Polytechnic, where he had been a pupil, and continued his studies, astonishing his teachers by his rapid progress.

He refused to consider his blindness as making him useless in life. He dances, swims, and takes long walks alone, just as he did when he had his sight.

One day he entered a barber's shop, and, having had his

hair cut, he pretended to look in the hand mirror placed behind his head by the barber, who asked him if the hair-cut was all right. Leroy said it was, paid, and walked out.

OOOO

THE advantage of living does not consist in the length of days, but in the right improvement of them. *Montaigne.*



BLIND WINNERS AT CRYSTAL PALACE FÊTE

THE EYES OF ST. DUNSTAN'S

AN ANGLING EXPERIENCE

(By kind permission of the "Morning Post")



WE were chums long before he went to St. Dunstan's, and I never doubted that, so far as was humanly possible, he would overcome his war disability. But when he wrote suggesting that for a week we might fish together his Scottish trout stream I wondered. True, he would doubtless retain his old skill in casting, and his sensitive touch would hold good.

But surely other difficulties would prove insurmountable.

Rain had been falling, and the sky was dull when we set out on the adventure. The bridge across the stream had been partially washed away in spate, and there was an ugly hiatus between the bank and what remained of the bridge. When I hung back to guide him he gaily waved a "Carry on," and, using his hands and feet as eyes, he made the crossing with more ease than I. That was the first lesson.

The fragment of sight remaining to him was enough to show him the glimmer of the water, and soon the line was running out and the fly floating down stream. And then one saw the working of the new sense—the gift of the St. Dunstan's gods. The right foot, as it moved up stream, seemed to be all eyes while it worked its way surely along the bank. It knew the boggy parts; it sensed where the bank had been washed away by the rains; for the rest the voice of the river, now babbling noisily over the stones, now still at the deep pools, sufficed. True, my angler knew every foot of the stream before his affliction, and a sure instinct brought it back, every foot of it.

"Got him," soon he cried, and in a few seconds the first of his gleaming trout was lying on the bank. Thereafter the sound of the reel was frequent and cheery enough. Though trout were small, sport was good. Myself, I am but a poor 'prentice hand at the game, and my eyesight availed me but little in clearing the mess of tackle brought into being by my woeful inexperience. But

my friend was all patience and skill; with sensitive fingers and (apparently) equally sensitive teeth, he unravelled the knots. Once the hook caught the mid-stream weeds. "Flies are flies nowadays," quoth he, and with no more ado he waded barelegged into the river, and with wonderful sureness of foot and delicacy of touch followed the gut to the clutching weed and unharnessed it, what time the town mouse stood agape on the bank.

Once and once only were we unitedly baffled. To reach a likely stretch I piloted my friend over a ditch and a barbed-wire fence, only to find facing us a fine bull lying by the bank. I communicated the fact. "Heave a brick at him," urged my friend. I did. The bull rose slowly.

Now it had taken us three deliberative minutes to cross the ditch and the wire. If the bull charged it would take us less time to recross, with or without his assistance. Should the advance be attempted? The bull was a stranger to my friend, who had (as will readily be understood) never seen him, and had not even suspected his existence, though on consideration he recalled a mysterious deep breathing that had followed him while he fished there, alone, on another occasion. We held an unhurried council. Then the bull raised his head and surveyed us. We evacuated the position—ingloriously, it may seem to you; but what would you have?

We whipped the dead old stretch again with scant success. Near the victorious bull the trout were invitingly leaping.

OOOO

MISS SADIE ISAACS, the clever East End blind girl, is going to London University next session. She hopes to get a B.A. English honours degree. Then she wants to become a journalist. The work that comes most easily to her is writing, and she has been a constant contributor to the magazine of the Central Foundation School, which she attended. In 1915 she was the winner, among 169,000 competitors, of the R.S.P.C.A. prize for an essay.

A FAMOUS SWISS NATURALIST



FRANÇOIS HUBER, the famous Swiss naturalist, who won world-wide renown as an authority on the life and habits of the bee, was born at Geneva in 1750. His father was a soldier who was a friend of Voltaire, and, being a man of culture, taste, and versatile abilities, he was a prominent member of the *côterie* at Ferney. The Hubers had already made their mark in the literary and scientific world. Marie Huber, great-aunt to François, was a voluminous writer on religious and theological subjects, and translated and epitomised *The Spectator*.

Young François early showed signs of having inherited the family versatility and ability. He always gratefully admitted that he owed a great deal to the early guidance and training of his father. François began to attend the public lectures at the University at an unusually early age, under the direction of good masters. The passionate eagerness with which he followed his studies by day was only equalled by his absorption in the reading of romances by night, often only by the light of the moon. The consequence was that his health broke down, and his eyesight began to show signs of being seriously impaired. He was then fifteen years of age, and was advised by a Parisian oculist to give up all study and live a life of ease in the country.

Accordingly he went to Stein, a village near Paris, and there he lived the uneventful life of a peasant, following the plough, and occupying himself wholly in agricultural pursuits. His general health improved, and he acquired a knowledge of and love for country life, pursuits and pleasures, which never afterwards left him.

Before his sight became impaired he met Marie-Aimée Lullin, the daughter of one of the Syndics of the Republic. They became attached to one another, but François' father refused his consent to the proposed match. Marie was equally resolute, and despite François' loss of sight she waited for him until the age of twenty-five, when they were

married. The union turned out to be an ideally happy one. Marie in every way endeavoured to be a solace to him in his deprivation, and indeed to be his very eyes for upwards of forty years.

During François' residence in the country he had become very interested in bees, so he set himself to learn all there was to learn about these insects, to study them scientifically, and to record the results of his observations. The only thing he lacked was sight, and Huber began to train his servant, François Burnens, in the art of scientific observation, directing his attention by ingenious and artfully framed questions, and firing him with his own keen and ardent enthusiasm and absorbing passion for the work.

This blind man, aided only by his faithful servant, studied the genesis of swarms, and was the first to give a veracious account of that wonderful periodical migration. He it was who first discovered the secret of their sudden desertion of the ample stores of golden honey which they had so assiduously gathered, leaving it for the use of the generation to come and going out themselves into the wilderness to begin their life-work all over again. Huber confirmed, by repeated observations, Shirach's discovery, that the worker bees were really undeveloped females.

His "*Nouvelles Observations sur les Abeilles*" was published at Geneva in 1792 and translated into English in 1806. He wrote other books on the same subject, and a species of Brazilian trees is known by his name—*Huberia laurina*.

Gifted with a pretty wit and considerable vivacity of manner, his was a most attractive and winning personality. He had an excellent memory, was a first-class raconteur, and shared the partiality of most blind people for sweet sounds. A lover of poetry, he was passionately attached to music, which was, throughout his life, his favourite recreation. Having lost the services of his devoted servant, Huber was assisted in his work by his son Pierre, who was of invaluable help to his father. Huber died at Pregny, near his native Geneva, in the year 1831.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND



THE Second Annual Report of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind was issued last month by the Ministry of Health. Reference is made in this report to proposals for grants in aid to approved agencies for the blind in respect of particular services carried on on behalf of the blind. These services and the rates of grant per annum were as follows :

Workshops ...	£20 per head
Home workers ...	£20 "
Homes ...	£13 "
Hostels ...	£5 "
Home teaching ...	£78 per teacher
Book production ...	2s. 6d. per volume ; 2d. per copy of magazine, periodical or sheet music
Counties Associations ...	£20 per 100 registered blind persons in area

These proposals, together with the recommendation that application might be made for grant in aid of any scheme of assistance other than those referred to above, which had for its object the betterment of the conditions of the blind or the prevention of blindness, were accepted by the Government. The grants operated as from July 1st, 1919, and the first payment was completed by March 31st, 1920. The committee record with pleasure the arrangement of a system of co-operation as between the Ministry of Health, the National Institute for the Blind and the Advisory Committee. The National Institute having always shown readiness to assist local agencies to the best of its abilities, it was desirable that such assistance should be given in accordance with recommendations made by the Advisory Committee to the Ministry after consideration of all the information available. The National Institute has readily consented to this course of action, and has further agreed to supplement the grant to the Counties Associations paid by the Ministry by making grants equal to half that of the Ministry. In connection with the

Counties Association, it has been arranged that individual cases shall be referred to them ; the Institute may subsequently be approached for further assistance in special cases.

The statistics in this report show the number of blind persons in England and Wales to have been 30,785 on the 1st April last, as compared with 25,840 on January 1st, 1919. The increase is to be accounted for by more complete records having been obtained, and not by an increase in the actual number of blind persons. There are 2,614 blind children (aged 0—16) Of the adults, 14,518 are returned as unemployable, whilst 1,071 are under training. The blind known to be in employment number 7,589. Of these the following have been registered as :—

Basket and Cane Workers ...	1,490
Musicians, Singers, &c. ...	547
Hawkers ...	501
Dealers (Agents, &c.) ...	324
Mat-makers ...	363
Brush-makers ...	381
Farmers ...	41
Agricultural and General Labourers ...	143
Clergymen, Priests, &c. ...	43
Schoolmasters, Lecturers, &c. ...	123
Carpenters ...	21
Knitters, &c. ...	814
Domestic Servants ...	102
Boot Repairers ...	187
Clerks and Typists ...	77
Massage Operators ...	99
Poultry-farmers ...	92
	5,348

A Departmental Committee has been appointed to enquire into the causes of blindness, including defective vision sufficient to impair economic efficiency.

OOOO

THROUGH labour to rest, through combat to victory.
Thomas à Kempis.

OOOO

DOES not the consciousness of having done some good in your day and generation give pleasure?
Jane Eyre.

A WORKER FOR THE BLIND

MISS CORINNA SHATTUCK, who saved more than 300 people from death at Ourfa during the massacre of Armenians in 1895, was one of the world's great heroines, and as deserving of honour as Grace Darling or Florence Nightingale. When but a poor girl she became ambitious to work as a foreign missionary, and, educating herself for that service, she was sent to Asiatic Turkey immediately after her graduation from the State Normal School at Framingham, Mass., in 1873. Seven years of hard work in Adana, Aintab and several smaller cities so injured her health that she was obliged to return to America for four years, at the end of which time she felt so much stronger that she pleaded with the Foreign Missionary Board to send her back to Turkey. So impressed was the Board with her earnestness and ability that her request was granted, although one of her lungs was then almost useless from tuberculosis and physicians told her that she had but five years more to live. "Then I wish to spend those five years labouring for my Master in Turkey," was her heroic reply, and she returned to Turkey

to serve, not for five years only, but for twenty-seven years.

In 1892 Miss Shattuck took charge of the American Mission at Ourfa, and she had just got the work well re-organised when three years later occurred that terrible massacre in which 6,000 of Ourfa's best, most prominent and capable citizens were slain, and which left

several hundred orphans and 1,500 widows dependent upon the Mission for support. With wonderful resourcefulness Miss Shattuck provided for the immediate needs of these helpless people, and then organised industrial work whereby the widows were enabled to support themselves, and industrial schools to train the orphans to become self-supporting. Her orphanage was one of the most successful in Turkey, while her industrial school developed into an institution of such efficiency and importance that the orphanage of which at first it was but an auxiliary be-



CAPTAIN E. B. B. TOWSE, V.C. [Daily Sketch]
at a Garden Party at Richmond buying a broom made by the blind

came little more than a boarding department for the industrial school. In 1902 Miss Shattuck established a School for the Blind, which became a great blessing to the many poor blind children in Turkey, and being the pioneer institution of its kind in that part of the country, led to the establishment of, and provided the teachers for, other schools for the blind in Adana, Aintab, Hadjin and Marash.

THE DOTTED TEXT

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND—BY A READER OF THEM



AMONG the advantages to be derived from the possession of a well-stocked library not the least is the means thereby afforded of escape from daily environment into the ample spaces wherein reside the thoughts and recorded experiences of men of all times. It is not essential that such a library should be one's own property in the sense that one's coat is one's own; if its contents be reasonably accessible, virtual possession is secured. Given such access, the poorest may live in kings' palaces, and the most timid may scale the Matterhorn, shoot Niagara, interview the Grand Llama, or criticise Mr. Bernard Shaw.

Give a blind man a book and teach him how to read it, and you place in his hands a weapon wherewith he can hold at bay the powers of darkness, a weapon which, moreover, will scare away the formidable imps of *ennui*. The invention by Braille of his system of embossed writing conferred upon the blind an inestimable boon.

The National Library for the Blind commands the services of some hundreds of voluntary workers, who transcribe books into Braille, a laborious and exacting task, for accuracy is a *sine qua non*, and corrections and erasures are not practicable. The National Institute possess a remarkably ingenious printing press from which pours forth a constant stream of books and periodicals. These latter range from magazines suitable for the nursery and the schoolroom up to a rather ambitious monthly which aims at being a digest of all that is best in contemporary English periodical literature. So enterprising and so thoroughly competent are those who have in hand the provision of reading matter that it can be said that blind people in this country have at their disposal all the range of literature from, let us say, Socrates to "Sonia." The student is cared for as well as the general reader. No subject is so abstruse that someone cannot be found to transcribe its text

books for the use of the blind scholar. Theology, law, medicine, music, what you will, any of these may be studied by touch. If the book desired be not now in Braille the Institute or the Library will have it done into the dotted text.

Among the facilities at the service of the specialist may be mentioned the library of music, and a well-selected range of books on anatomy, for the use of the blind students and practitioners of massage, which are housed at the National Institute. It may be mentioned, by the way, that the lecturer on anatomy at the National Institute School of Massage, himself blind, is not only an expert authority on the human frame but also a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, while the curator of the Massage Library, blind, also is a fully qualified doctor of medicine. Quite recently the Institute provided Braille editions of a standard work on ecclesiastical architecture for the benefit of a number of blind aspirants for a musical degree, ecclesiastical architecture being included in the subjects of examination.

The question "What are the favourite books of the blind?" is often put. The answer is that the literary taste of blind people varies just like the taste of other folk. Their reading runs through the whole gamut of literature; as in a general community so among the blind there are the frivolous and the serious, the avid patrons of the "shilling shocker" and the student of the classics. It is thought by some that since the blind read on the whole more slowly, and since their condition induces reflection, they probably absorb more of what they read than do their fellows. This may be so; it is difficult to dogmatise on the point. There is, however, a steady demand for the classics of English fiction. Dickens is a great favourite, and so is Scott. It might be imagined that the prolixity of the latter would weary those who read by touch, but this is not the case, at least among a large class of blind people. Novels of all kinds are eagerly read; of

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—No. 47.

NOVEMBER, 1920.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

EDITORIAL



It is a truism to observe that the importance of every matter depends upon the angle from which you observe it. And yet, a great many people do seem to attach insufficient importance to different view-points and individual temperaments. How rash a thing it is, for instance, to say "This man's life must be extremely sad," or, "How happy so-and-so must be."

The events which to the onlooker appear pathetic may not at all have affected the person in question in like manner, and the so-called "happy man" may be far too much of a pessimist by nature to appreciate the gifts bestowed upon him. "There's nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so."

Nunez, in Wells's story, when he came to the Kingdom of the Blind, thought he might easily become their ruler because he possessed the all-important sense which they lacked. He was led into a dark room where he stumbled about, and then he found that the blind men were more than his match. When he expatiated on the marvels of sight they thought he was mad, and came to the conclusion that what had affected his brain were "those queer things that are called the eyes, and which exist to make an agreeable soft depression in the face." "He has eyelashes," they said, "his eyelids move, and consequently his brain is in a state of constant irritation and distraction." . . . "I think I may say with reasonable certainty," said the blind doctor, "that, in order to cure him completely, all that we need to do is a simple surgical operation, namely, to remove these

irritant bodies. . . . Then he will be perfectly sane and a quite admirable citizen. . . ."

In our last Editorial we elaborated on Sir Arthur Pearson's utterance that the secret of learning to overcome the handicap of blindness consisted in acquiring the viewpoint that it was neither an affliction nor a calamity, but should be accepted as an opportunity. This, again, depends partly on individual temperament, and we must look upon that man as happy whose nature allows him to turn what is commonly spoken of as a misfortune into a blessing. A remarkable instance of this reverend spirit is afforded by a blind man who was recently heard to remark: "I look upon the day when I became blind as my birthday." Those words indeed "give one furiously to think." An artisan of humble origin and few educational advantages, this man had followed his calling, worked his eight hours in the day, sought his well-earned rest at night, and had little thought of higher things. Bereft of his occupation through blindness, he was driven to look within himself. He began to think about things, to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest. Wide avenues of thought were opened out to him; he developed powers which he had not known he possessed. His opportunity had come. All the glories of the world were open before him, to think, to dream about, and he had leisure to enjoy them. He was born again, and like a little child, his faltering mind and footsteps had first to be led along the enchanted avenues of thought and space.

And here we would like to digress from the immediate subject, and open up the question as to whether we who have physical sight would be likely to form more accurate and sure judgments in the important affairs of life were we not subject to the distractions

effected by the outward view. Do we allow ourselves to be influenced too much by beautiful surroundings, a pretty face, becoming clothes? Do we insufficiently cultivate the inner vision, and are we therefore out of harmony with ourselves and with our fellow-creatures? Perhaps, for

"The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending we lay waste our powers.
We have given our hearts away; a sordid boon . . ."

The question, then, which we have to answer is this: Should we form sounder opinions regarding men and things without the distraction of sight? Although here, too, the answer must largely depend upon the temperament of the one who answers, the matter is surely one which is worthy of debate.

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

THE Monthly Concerts for this season opened on Wednesday, October 13th, the following artistes contributing an interesting and varied programme:—Miss Madeleine Howard, soprano; Miss Ivy Parkin, pianist; Mr. Owen Bryngwyn, baritone; Mr. Ernest Whitfield, violinist; Miss Barbara Thornley, accompanist to Mr. Bryngwyn.

Mr. Whitfield and Miss Parkin were happily associated and in complete understanding with one another in that very fine Sonata of Beethoven, No. 7, in C minor. Mr. Whitfield's power of expression and flexibility of technique were well illustrated in Schubert's "Ave Maria" and "Perpetuum Mobile," by Novacek, while Miss Parkin gave a delightfully delicate account of Henselt's "Si oiseau j'étais" and a short waltz in A flat of Chopin, the latter being an encore.

Miss Howard gave an excellent rendering of "Voi Che Sapete" from Mozart's "Figaro," while Mr. Owen Bryngwyn's smooth and even baritone voice appeared to advantage in a number of Welsh airs.

To an enthusiastic encore in the second part Mr. Bryngwyn responded with a most effective rendering of Cowen's strong and vigorous "Border Ballad."—*H. C. W.*

OOOO

It is the fight and not the victory which rejoices the heart of the brave man.

Montalembert.

THE BLIND PERSONS' ACT

IT is very much to be regretted that Poor Law Authorities, in consequence of the Treasury Grant, appear to be anxious to take away the relief which they have been previously giving to necessitous blind persons, in consideration of the fact that all such persons over fifty years of age will now be entitled to a pension of 10s. per week.

Though it is true that prior to 1919 Poor Law Authorities were required to desist from making extra payment in consequence of the fact that the Old Age Pension was available to all persons over seventy years of age, it is equally true that the Act of 1919 was introduced to remove this disability.

Since the provisions of the Act of 1919 are made applicable in all respects to blind persons who acquire the pension at fifty years of age, it does seem exceptionally hard to take away the scanty allowances which are generally made by Poor Law Authorities because additional help is forthcoming from the Treasury.

A number of cases are before us, which show that the benefits under the Blind Persons' Act will be neutralised by the action of Poor Law Authorities, and we sincerely hope that a determined effort will be made by the various institutions, societies, and agencies for the blind to make suitable representation to Poor Law Authorities in respect of this matter.

The spirit and intention of the Blind Persons' Act is surely to improve the status of every member of the blind community, but if this unsympathetic attitude is followed by Poor Law Authorities the benefits conferred by the Act will largely be made to disappear.—*Ben Purse.*

OOOO

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MESSAGE LIBRARY

Effects of Radium Treatment on War Injuries in the Neighbourhood of Nerves; by W. C. Stevenson.

Physiology of the Central Nervous System; compiled by J. Lloyd Johnstone.

Physiopathic Paralysis of the Hand, and its Causation; by R. G. Abercrombie.

OOOO

IN common work for the common good all men and nations find the remedy for their past errors and present discontents. *Burke.*

COMMITTEE ON THE CAUSES AND PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS



THE Minister of Health has appointed the following:—The Right Hon. G. H. Roberts, M.P., Chairman; Stephen Walsh, Esq., M.P.; N. Bishop Harman, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.S.; J. B. Lawford, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.; G. F. Mowatt, Esq.; Mrs. Wilton Phipps; J. H. Parsons, Esq., C.B.E., F.R.C.S. (representing the Royal College of Surgeons); J. Taylor, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P. (representing the Royal College of Physicians); J. C. Bridge, Esq., F.R.C.S. (representing the Home Office); A. Eicholz, Esq., G.B.E., M.D. (representing the Board of Education); J. S. Nicholson, Esq. (representing the Ministry of Labour); W. M. Stone, Esq. (representing the Scottish Office); E. D. Macgregor, Esq. (representing the Ministry of Health); a representative of the Medical Research Council (to be appointed later); to be a committee to investigate and report on the causes of blindness, including defective vision sufficient to impair economic efficiency and to suggest measures which might be taken for the prevention of blindness.

R. A. Farrar, Esq., M.D., and P. N. R. Butcher, Esq., will act as joint secretaries to the committee, and any communications should be addressed to them at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

* * *

IN connection with the appointment of the above committee the *Daily Telegraph* says:—

"If we require evidence of the virtue which lies in the decision to establish a Government Department to care for the health of the nation, we might find it in the appointment of a committee 'to investigate and report on the causes of blindness, including defective vision sufficient to impair economic efficiency, and to suggest measures which might be taken for the prevention of blindness.' The time is overdue for such an inquiry, and the Ministry of Health has got

together a strong body for the task in preparation for the crusade which Dr. Addison intends to lead. Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P., is the chairman, and his colleagues include a number of medical and surgical experts, as well as administrators, who will approach the problem with a full consciousness of its importance from the economic standpoint and its tragedy in its bearing on individual life and happiness. We cannot attribute blindness to modern conditions of life—the growth of industrialism, office routine, or inadequate or harmful artificial light—for the blind, like the poor, have always been with us. It arises from a variety of causes, which have been little explored in this country at least, and are inadequately understood by the ordinary medical practitioner. Though the German population is far less seriously affected than, for instance, that of Italy, Portugal, Spain, and the United States, ophthalmia has been the subject of consistent research in that country for many years past. It must be a source of encouragement to the Committee to realise that, at a moderate estimate, more than one-third of the cases of blindness are certainly preventable, and that quite as large a proportion are possibly preventable. Those figures, of course, have little or no bearing on the case of those victims of the Great War in whose cause Sir Arthur Pearson enlisted with such noble results. They apply rather to individuals who, either in infancy or later on, lose the power of vision. The case of the children is at once the most hopeful and the most distressing, for probably in the majority of cases early skilled treatment might save their sight, while its absence means that they are condemned to physical darkness from the cradle to the grave, losing all those joys which come to us through the eyes, and which most of us estimate so lightly. The Committee will find that it has available an enormous mass of data, gathered in particular in Germany and the United States. It is not setting out on a hopeless quest. It is, on

the contrary, embarking on an investigation which offers the prospect of rescuing tens of thousands of children—the men and women of the future—from all the deprivations which come from blindness. Mr. Roberts and those associated with him can also be assured, from the experience of Sir Arthur Pearson and the pioneers among the friends of the blind, that the sympathy and good wishes of the whole nation will be theirs, and that whatever suggestions they may make will be supported by a lively and aroused public opinion."

BLIND MAYOR OF SWINDON

AMONG the Mayors who are about to assume their year of office is an Honorary Local Secretary of the National Institute for the Blind, Alderman Edwin Jones. Mr. Jones, who is a sub-postmaster at Swindon, has been totally blind for the last forty-five years. He holds a long and uninterrupted record of work

on behalf of the town which has elected him as its mayor. As far back as 1892 Mr. Jones was elected a member of the old Local Board. In December, 1894, the Urban District Council was formed, the town being divided into five wards; in the same year Mr. Jones was returned as the representative of the West Ward. In 1900 the town was incorporated under a charter of her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, and Mr. Jones was re-elected for the West Ward, and became one of the first aldermen of the town. He held this office for three years, and was subsequently a councillor for nine years. At the end of this period he was again raised to the aldermanic bench.

Alderman Jones has been a member of the Swindon and Highworth Board of Guardians since 1900, being at present

vice-chairman. He is a member of numerous committees of both the Town Council and the Guardians, besides being a member of the Old Age Pensions Committee and the War Pensions Committee. In 1916 he was placed on the Commission of the Peace for the borough of Swindon. Mr. Jones has long been connected with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, of which he is a trustee, as well as of other churches. He is a member of the body of local preachers, and since 1882 he has occupied the pulpit every Sunday at one or other of the various churches within a radius of twenty-five miles of Swindon. Alderman Jones has always retained much of the activity of his earlier days, his remaining faculties having ably taken the place of

that of sight. He himself tells us that he received much inspiration from the example of the late Prof. Henry Fawcett, M.P., who was at one time Postmaster-General. His own life of useful service may in like manner act as an inspiration to others.

In connection with the above it will be of interest to our readers to

recall the fact that a very distinguished member of the blind community has once before held the office of mayor. We are alluding to Mr. Henry Martyn Taylor, M.A., F.R.S., who was Mayor of Cambridge in the year 1900.

OOOO

THE circumstances which have most influence on the happiness of mankind, the changes of manners and morals, the transition of communities from poverty to wealth, from ignorance to knowledge, from ferocity to humanity—these are, for the most part, noiseless revolutions. . . . They are carried on in every school, in every church, behind ten thousand counters, at ten thousand firesides.

Macaulay.



THE BLIND MAYOR-ELECT OF SWINDON, WITH HIS WIFE

[Photo: Daily Sketch]

THE BLIND HOMER

(By F. Le G. Clark)



EASILY and naturally, like most blinded men, I can slip back into my own past, or the past of the world. Yesterday it happened, for example, that I was lost mentally in those two great Epics of ancient Greece, the tale of Troy and the story of Ulysses. As I thought, it came to me with a fresh meaning that, after all, Homer himself, the writer by tradition of the two mighty poems, had been a blind man, and at once I began to view them from a new and intimate standpoint. As I pondered, I even opened my typewriter and took a few casual notes

The authorities will have it, of course, that Homer never existed, and that the two poems are the work of many hands, manufactured slowly from generation to generation. We are bound to accept their critical decisions with all reverence, and yet in my heart I believe that one minstrel out of the thousand was a blind bard, led from palace to palace by the hand of children. Why otherwise should the tradition of a sightless man have fixed itself so firmly in the popular mind? Besides, at one place in the poem, the poet might be said to introduce himself. It is in the Palace of the king Alcinous, where he sits every evening feasting with his sea-captains. The meal has been cleared, the talk is flowing round, when a servant leads in a blind minstrel with his harp. At once there is silence, and all eyes are turned towards him. He is given his cup of wine, and then, standing in the midst, he touches the harp-strings and sings his stories of war and love. It is a fine scene, typical entirely of those warring, voyaging generations; and from this outset I began to contemplate Homer afresh—this time as a blinded man.

It struck me at once how curiously rare in Homer is the mention of colour. In all those immense poems there is scarcely a word for "blue" or "red." He has, it seems, a term for "yellow," i.e. "Xanthus," but he

uses it for many things, the yellow turbulence of a muddy river, a blonde man, and a light brown horse. Even when he describes a man's hair as "hyacinthine," he appears to refer rather to the shape of the curls than to their colour. Metals he is always depicting, but his adjectives for them almost invariably refer to their sheen, their brilliancy, than to anything specific about their colouration; and in all his descriptions of the sea he would far rather refer to its immensity and its voices than to its shifting lights and shades. Can it be, I asked myself, as I pondered all this, that Homer was indeed a blinded man—one to whom the recollection of shapes and actions was still lively, but whose sense of colour was fading and gradually becoming untrustworthy?

But it is possible to linger too lovingly on one slight grain of evidence. Let me turn and consider what kind of life might have been led by the blinded minstrel; what were his joys and hopes, what his difficulties and his recognised position in the social order. He was one of a strange, half-attached profession, that wandered from village to village, and from court to court, singing the popular ballads. There was no writing, or only that of the most rudimentary nature; so our minstrels, even the-sighted, had to perform amazing feats of memory, recalling and improvising a thousand and one ballads and hymns. A fitting profession for a blinded man, free from the distractions of light, colour and movement. We can understand, in a brief instant, how it was the *Blind Poet* who held that highest position of all as favoured minstrel at the court of the King. The lower grades might wander from door to door, picking up a gift here and there; he held an honourable and protected place, and when he sang the kings were silent.

The Homer we imagine was both a performer and a poet in his own right. He had learned, as do our organists, to recite all the great works of the past, and to accompany himself sweetly upon the harp; but in addition

he was required to invent and elaborate. The new feats of his masters had to be recorded in rhythm, linked up with those of their ancestors and handed down to their descendants. Thus every fresh deed of arms had to be learned and studied by the minstrel, so that the King when he sat later at peace in his halls might hear his own glories properly celebrated. Homer, I think, had been in his young days a warrior and a sailor with the rest of them. He describes the battle and the wreck too vividly not to have himself taken some part in them. But now all this was past; he was left blinded at home, to brood from day to day on all the things he had seen and known, till they became somehow clearer to him than to the full-sighted men about him. The palace where he lived was built of stone. In front lay the courtyard enclosed by a low stone wall, and filled with the wandering dogs and servants of the king. When passing through this, having felt its broad fluted pillars, he would reach the great doors of the main hall. Ordinarily it was long and low, the hall of the palace, filled with the smell of smoke and of eating and drinking. Tables were scattered about it, and here sat the captains and councillors, feeding at the king's expense, and welcoming the minstrel as an expected and regular part of an evening's entertainment.

As I write one strange memory wakes up in my mind that may have some faint bearing upon Homer's blindness. There is a wonderful scene in the "Odyssey," in which Ulysses is supposed to be visiting the country of the Dead, far to the Westward. Here he meets the Soul of his old friend, the great warrior Achilles, wandering in the gloomy fields of Hades. He greets him and asks how he fares; and Achilles, in one of the saddest passages of poetry ever written, replies that he longs for the sunlight and the common life of mankind. "I would rather," he says, "be a slave toiling in the fields at the bidding of some poor farmer than reign here a king among the Dead."

Can it be that here in a parable we have the voice of the blinded man crying out suddenly for the light that can never return to him? I cannot tell; but sometimes, as I stretch my hands back through time and touch those of the greatest of poets, I like to feel that he, too, knew all the hidden passions of humanity, and would understand.

MINERS' BLINDNESS

SOME further information on miners' nystagmus, the disease of the eye arising in mines owing to defective lighting, is given by Dr. Lister Llewellyn in a paper in the *Journal of State Medicine*. The economic aspect of this industrial disease is dealt with, and it is estimated that no fewer than 6,000 men have been incapacitated in the United Kingdom at any given time since 1913. The cost to the employer is placed at £200,000 a year, but the loss of coal output, the trouble caused by the employment of unskilled workmen, and the diminished capacity for work of the incipient cases all swell this total. In addition, accidents are probably precipitated.

This disabled man is paid some 25s.-35s. a week, and the country loses his output. If he is off work for a year the loss to the country will be, it has been estimated, at least £359, made up thus:—

Compensation, 25s. a week	...	...	...	£65
235 tons of coal at 25s. a ton, pit-head prices	..			294
				£359

If it be further assumed that each case "plays" six months in the year, the total direct cost to the country will be $3,000 \times £359$, or over a million pounds sterling.

The Times.

0000

BLIND SHORTHAND WRITER

DR. MACNAMARA, Minister of Labour, speaking at a luncheon of the Aldwych Club in London, again referred to his efforts to find employment for ex-soldiers.

As an example of what these men could do, he told them that within a street or two of where he was talking, there was a blind man, trained at St. Dunstan's. That man was employed as a stenographer. He was now able to find his way to and from his work unaided. He was writing shorthand by the Braille system at the rate of 100 words a minute. He was typing his shorthand on an ordinary machine at the rate of forty words a minute. He sorted and filed his own correspondence, and when shorthand and typing work was slack, he acted as a relief telephone operator, and controlled a switch-board of twenty extensions and five direct lines.

NEW WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND



ON the 13th October Dr. Addison opened the new Workshops for the Blind, which have been erected by the London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind in extension of their existing premises at Swiss Cottage. Mr. T. F. Hobson, who presided, said that the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind had existed for nearly eighty years. They had always had an elementary school, and for many years they had provided workshops. The accommodation was, however, very deficient, and the Society had therefore set out to increase its accommodation for training the blind. The new workshops would increase the number of pupils from thirty-five to sixty-five.

Dr. Addison said he was already aware that the Society was one of the most firmly-established institutions in the country, that it had inaugurated pioneer work of the most useful kind for the blind, and that it was looked upon as a leading institution. He observed in the pamphlet and statement of accounts dealing with the Society a reference to prevention of blindness in infancy. The staff of the Society must have experienced many regrets that the community had not hitherto made a combined and sustained effort to prevent blindness. He noticed, for example, that eighty per cent. of the children attending the elementary school had been blind, or more or less blind, from infancy. He was sure they would agree with him, therefore, that in appointing a body of experts under his friend Mr. Roberts to investigate the cause of blindness and see what combined effort they could make as a community to prevent it with more success in the future than had been the case in the past, they had taken a right and proper step. To this end, also, the Society could do most useful work by its propaganda to prevent blindness in infancy. Their enterprise to-day was directed to filling one of the deep

gaps in the present scheme of assisting the blind. He hoped that the terms of the Bill for the Blind of last session would come to be looked upon as the Charter for the Blind. In drafting the Bill, now an Act of Parliament, it became clear that there was not sufficient encouragement to voluntary authorities to provide training for the blind, because there was no opportunity of their earning a livelihood in the occupation for which they had been trained.

He was glad to see now that inquiry was being directed as to what schools for the blind were required throughout the country, and that the Exchequer was empowered to help authorities to provide accommodation. In so doing authorities were to make use of and bring into their scheme organisations which had shown the way in helping the blind. He sincerely hoped that the authorities would combine in consultation with this blind institution to make the fullest use of the facilities they offered to-day, and the greater facilities they hoped to offer in the future. There was no doubt that the assistance of institutions of this kind could be, and must be, woven into the general scheme. It would, of course, take time under the new Act to secure a census of the blind needing help and see what arrangements could be made. But he believed that the new co-ordination of effort would do much to further ameliorate the condition of the blind. The fixing of the old-age time limit for the blind to fifty years of age was also, he was sure, regarded as a God-send. But the more the workshops and training schools for the blind were developed, the less should be the number of helpless blind who would require the old-age pension.

Sir Washington Ranger moved, and Dr. P. M. Evans seconded, a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Addison, which was accorded with applause. The Minister of Health then made a tour of the workshops and school, and expressed his appreciation of the arrangements.

LONDON'S CHILDREN



THE Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer is always a document of far-reaching service. The recently issued report contains a great deal of interesting information, and very valuable tables and other data are given indicating the chief results of medical inspection. The results of Dr. Chaikin's inquiry into the occurrence of myopia is of especial interest to us.

His conclusion emphasise the following points: (1) Considerable numbers of children suffered from myopia in one form or other. (2) The majority show it with astigmatism, either with another myopic meridian or a hypermetropic meridian or with an emmetropic meridian. (3) That, as is well known, myopia increases with age. (4) That the causes may be many, but school work cannot be entirely passed over, and the lighting and attitude must be carefully watched. (5) The great prevalence of astigmatism is important. There are many causes; but no doubt a new contributory cause is found in the flickerings and bad light of picture palaces whither multitudes of children flock, and which endanger the eyes of the young. (6) The great care required in retinoscopy in order to obtain the best result as a consequence of this prevalent astigmatism. (7) This also

affects the results which are often seen at re-inspections at schools when the children do not obtain full correction—a condition not unlikely in astigmatism. (8) The importance of well-fitting and correctly centred glasses cannot be emphasised sufficiently in view of the frequency of astigmatism. (9) Incidentally the cost of glasses is affected—astigmatic lenses being more expensive.

Other deformities than those due definitely to rickets increase during school life and fall heaviest by far upon the elder girls

of which 2·7 present deformities, chiefly spinal curvature, as compared with 1·9 per cent. of twelve-year-old boys. "It is to be feared that household drudgery must be the out-of-school lot of many girls as they approach school-leaving age, and accounts in no small measure for the more unhealthy condition of the



ROLLER SKATING AT THE ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE, NORWOOD

[Photopress

girls as compared with boys on leaving school.

"While a marked improvement in general conditions, such as cleanliness and nutrition, is to be noted in the same children after the lapse of four years, and there is a very distinct improvement in the teeth and the condition of the throat and ears, there is a deterioration in the condition of the heart, a deterioration in vision, and an increase in the amount of deformity present; the deterioration being in all three cases greater in girls than in boys, and in one instance, deformity,

being confined to the girls. The causes of these unequally incident conditions have been discussed in this and former reports, but their actual demonstration in the same group of children examined after the lapse of four years lends emphasis to the warnings which have repeatedly been given that girls are not as healthily brought up as boys are ; while the deterioration in vision suggests that much remains to be done in shielding the children from dangers of eye strain during school life."

OOOO

IN our July issue we had great pleasure in announcing that Lady Pearson (wife of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E.) had been created a Dame Commander of the British Empire. Our readers will call to mind Lady Pearson's untiring work as Honorary Organiser of the National Institute's Blind Musicians' Concert Party, as well as her work in connection with the Queen's Work for Women Fund. We now have pleasure in stating that Lady Pearson received her Order from the hands of the King at Buckingham Palace on October 12.

OOOO

DOMINOES FOR THE BLIND

THE National Institute for the Blind has hitherto provided raised dominoes containing the denominations used in the ordinary game, that is to say, up to and including the double six. The game has now been improved upon by providing dominoes of higher denominations, from blank seven up to double nine. If the two sets be used together the game becomes doubly interesting, and is suitable for any number of players up to eight. Price of set (up to double six), 6s.; price of set (up to double nine), 6s. Postage extra.

WE direct attention to a Memorandum as to schemes of Local Authorities in connection with the Blind Persons Act, 1920, recently issued for official use and obtainable at H.M. Stationery Office or through any bookseller, price 2d. This Memorandum fully explains the powers devolving upon local authorities and should be carefully studied. Accompanying this Memorandum is a circular to the County and Borough Councils, drawing attention to the provisions of the Act.

OOOO

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND

THE next examination for the Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.19., will be held on the 4th and 6th December. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the date of the examination, must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years, and be intending to remain resident. Application should be made to the Principal, on or before Monday the 22nd November.

OOOO

GOVERNMENT UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

OWING to the insertion of Clause 17 in this Act, which makes it practically impossible for any Friendly Society to administer the Unemployment Benefits with any degree of equality to the Labour Exchanges, the Church Benefit Society has decided *not* to entertain the scheme, and the Secretary advises all members to go to the nearest Labour Exchange, from which they will receive books and cards, and deal with such Exchange for the Unemployment Insurance as they now do with the Society for Health Insurance.



[Photopress]
A BLIND CHILD LEARNING TO PLAY THE PIANO AT THE
ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE, NORWOOD

THE BLIND BIRD'S NEST



IN the September number of the *Magazine of British Rotary* appears an article which, after some sympathetic preliminary remarks concerning the men who lost their sight in the war, leads up to the subject of massage as a calling for the blind, and to the work of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs. The writer, W. S. R., starts his subject with a quasi-apology for using as his title a part of the exquisite Arabian aphorism to which he had referred at the Harrogate Conference, namely "The Blind Bird's Nest is made by God." "The ruthless manner in which men have destroyed each others' nests," he says, "has been a matter of pathetic wonder to thoughtful people through all the ages. In these days, when scientific barbarism on the one hand is confronted with highly organised altruism on the other, those whose sympathies are with suffering humanity have an increasing duty to get together to make their ameliorative work effective.

"Although we have plenty of evidence around us that greed, private feud, and commercial rivalry are potent enough for evil, there is abundance in the records of the last few years to give an unholy prominence to the view with which all history corresponds, that the really great harvests of sorrow reaped by suffering humanity have been deliberately prepared by arrogant, self-seeking men, to whom the consequent misery is irrelevant so long as they can cut a figure in the world and organize their own subjects for the subjugation and exploitation of other peoples.

"As Erasmus said, 'It is the people who build cities, while the madness of princes destroys them. Kings who are scarcely men are called divine. They are invincible, though they fly from every battlefield; serene, though they turn the world upside down in a storm of war; illustrious, though they grovel in ignorance of all that is noble;

Christian, though they follow anything rather than Christ. Of all birds the eagle alone is esteemed the type of Royalty—a bird neither beautiful, nor musical, nor good for food, but murderous, greedy, hateful to all, the curse of all, with its great power of doing harm only surpassed by its desire to do it.'

"Time, however, is a great healer. The fierce wars of Antiquity, the even more bloody conflicts of the Middle Ages, and even those of the nineteenth century, are to most people covered with a kindly oblivion. They reveal their hideous atrociousness only in the pages of history. It is an interesting study to watch the whole creation persistently travelling in pain to keep the cosmos from stagnating in an abyss of weltering and lawless grief. Such a process is now going on before our eyes, healing the wounds and repairing the ravages which man has again made upon the fair face of his magnificent heritage. Shakespeare spoke a word of profound truth when he said, 'There's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will.' Scarcely has man blasted the earth's surface into pits and mounds, before Nature begins to cover the raw and unsightly ruins with herbage, and to beautify them with the poppy and marguerite and a hundred other gay blooms. Scarcely have wounds been inflicted upon the bodies of much enduring men, before gentle ministries are at work to repair as far as may be the broken bones, and to bring healing to the quivering flesh.

"And over all the scene of desolation and pain the birds trill their unfailing melodies; the sun casts his accustomed gleam; the moon and stars pursue their wonted orderly way through pathless space; the rain descends; the seasons recur; and an insistent and irresistible though unseen force is at work, wafting us out from each storm into a new calm, while every voice of Nature and revelation seems to chant from out the heights and deeps of a Divine tranquility, 'Surely they are disquieted in vain.'

"Meanwhile, somehow, somewhere, not only the seeing and self-sufficient bird has its nest, but its blind and sightless companion finds itself mysteriously provided for, and is not without its home. . . .

"Amongst the sufferers from the late war, none, perhaps, have made a stronger appeal to the kind hearts amongst those whom they suffered to save than those who have lost their sight. Try to picture them assembled in a vast throng upon some immense parade ground ! How different the scene would be from that which one ordinarily associates with such a spectacular field. The prancing horses with their splendid riders in gorgeous uniforms and equipments ; the brigades of foot, garbed and armed with the scarlet panoply and glittering accoutrements of war ; the admiring crowds of both sexes and of all ages cheering themselves hoarse with martial enthusiasm, would all be absent. Instead, we should see a sad and pathetic 'common-illth,' as Ruskin would say, of sightless men drawn from every business and profession, and of every rank, involved in one common calamity. Why, an extensive section of any one of our largest cities could be entirely peopled with them. Who would not be touched with pity at the sight of their unmilitary manœuvres as they disperse and make their faltering ways to their respective homes ? No gay Quartier Latin would such a community go home to, but a Quartier des Aveugles, to which the blind would grope in their helplessness.

"I once read a very interesting article upon the subject of 'Spirits in Prison.' No, it was not the mystic, nor the theological essayist trying to reach out beyond the confines of revealed truth and human experience, but a humanist trying to interpret the mentality of people whose lives are spent behind the permanently closed portals of decayed or destroyed senses. The writer alluded, I remember, to the well-known fact that deaf persons are often apparently pensive and irritable, while the blind are almost always cheerful. He explained this by the comparative effects of their remaining but diverse means of contact with their fellows. The deaf may sit in company seeing people talk together, and feel only irritation on account of their own sense of isolation from the conversation ; while the blind, whose sightless souls are withheld from all the pleasure and entertainment that vision would have brought to them, are gladdened by communicative speech.

"As soon as they are addressed they are 'visited in their prison,' and their countenances light up with appreciative smiles upon feeling that by direct speech they are brought into communication again. Their cheerful, responsive smile is the expression of their pleasure upon finding themselves one with the rest. Again, for one glad moment—

"They walk as ere they walked forlorn,
When all the path was fresh with dew,
And all the bugle breezes blew
Reveillé to the breaking morn."

"Though they are so frequently uncomplaining and patient, it must not be thought that they are insensible of their affliction ; but silence is often the effect of noble self-suppression.

"I sometimes hold it half a sin
To put in words the grief I feel,
For words, like Nature, half reveal
And half conceal the soul within.
Such clouds of nameless trouble cross
All night below the darkened eyes ;
With morning wakes the will, and cries,
'Thou shalt not be the fool of loss.'"

"From what one gathers, however, the mental transformation that takes place in consequence of loss of sight is an experience full of anguish for the sufferer. To re-adjust oneself to a new environment, inwardly seeing life as a new problem, the solution of which without outside help seems well-nigh impossible, must be a dark and painful process:—

"So rounds he to a separate mind
From whence clear memory may begin,
As through the frame that binds him in
His isolation grows defined.
The leaf has perished in the green,
And, while we breathe beneath the sun,
The world which credits what is done
Is cold to all that might have been.
To find a stronger faith his own,
And power be with him in the night ;
Which makes the darkness and the light,
And dwells not in the light alone.
'Let knowledge grow from more to more ;
But more of reverence in me dwell ;
That mind and soul according well
May make one music as before.'"

Then the writer goes on to speak of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs, of which the membership at present consists of 76 blinded soldiers, 29 blind civilians, and 21 blind women, bringing the total membership up to 126. According to the Secretary of the A.C.B.M. those members who are established in private practice are doing well, and are steadily enlarging their practices. This proves that the public are most sympathetic towards the blind masseurs and masseuses.

It has been found that in many cases, where members are working in hospitals and pensions clinics, the patients prefer the ministrations of a blind operator, and ask specially to be treated by a blind member of the staff.

It is impossible to estimate the number of doctors who send patients to members. Members, however, do not undertake the treatment of patients without the consent and advice of a registered medical practitioner, and as the masseurs and masseuses in private practice are all kept busy, it will be seen that their services are widely known and appreciated in the medical world. Cases are known of London doctors sending patients to the provinces in order to receive specialized treatment from one of the members. The war has brought the profession of massage into great prominence—a statement which applies not only to the lay community but also to the medical profession; and doctors are beginning to realize the great healing power of the masseur and masseuse.

Great assistance can be given to members of the Association by interesting doctors in the work of blind masseurs and masseuses. Patients requiring massage can also ask their medical attendant for treatment by a blind operator. It has also been found extremely helpful to members to put them in touch with the medical advisers to large public bodies, institutions (city corporations, town councils, fire brigades, police force, schools, etc.), business houses (shipping firms, colliery owners, large stores, etc.), and sports clubs. A personal introduction to a medical man is of untold value to the blind masseur or masseuse.

From the figures given it will be seen that there are at present twenty-nine civilian members and twenty-one women. It is

anticipated that the number of women members will increase considerably, as membership has only recently been opened to women, and there are a good many blind masseuses working in all parts of the country.

It is an interesting fact that the three women at present in training are all nurses who have lost their sight; they are thus carrying on in a profession very closely allied to their former one.

Some of the civilian members were pioneers in the massage world, and their excellent work and the fine results obtained have done much to do away with the former prejudice against the blind operator and to pave the way for the St. Dunstan's masseurs, whose splendid work for the last few years is well known.

Applications for masseurs and masseuses should be made to the Secretary of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs, National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, London, W.1 (Tel.: "Mayfair" 4102-3-4).



FRONT PAGE OF SPECIAL "MIRROR" NUMBER

0000

THE following hint as to leading a dog comes from a blinded officer: "Some readers may, like myself, own a dog which is particularly tractable and follows well in normal circumstances, but which tries to roam abroad when one's walk lies through pheasant or other coverts. I have found that an ordinary leash is an unsatisfactory device for controlling a fairly powerful dog when one cannot see him. An active and intelligent animal will get the leash round his owner's ankles in a very little time. My device is to hook the crook of my walking-stick through his collar, and by this means get him safely through difficult country. The difference between a supple leash and a rigid stick is obvious."

"DAILY MIRROR" FOR THE BLIND

MANY of our readers will have seen the special number of the *Daily Mirror*, which was published on Friday, October 15, and is entirely devoted to the interests of the National Institute for the Blind. This issue contains every ordinary feature of the paper—special articles, news, gossip, photos, etc., and each of these features is devoted to the one subject—the blind.

Lord Rothermere generously placed the entire resources of the editorial and advertising staffs of the *Daily Mirror* at the service of the scheme, and defrayed all costs of production other than that of paper. The whole idea is carried out in a very complete manner. Even Mr. W. K. Haselden's

mirthful cartoon, divided into the usual six small squares, is concerned with the topic in question. In addition to the large number of pictures there is a vast amount of information in regard to a hundred and one subjects relating to the blind, their handicaps, their compensations, and their lives generally. A telegram from the Pope is reproduced in facsimile, with tributes from the Belgian King, the French President, and the four great leaders of the Church of England—the Archbishops of Canterbury, Wales and Dublin, and the Bishop of London. Messages of goodwill are also published from Lord Jellicoe, Lord Allenby, Sir H. Trenchard, Mr. Robert Smillie, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and leaders of the law, the stage and commerce. An article by Sir Arthur

Pearson, entitled "What Does it Feel Like to be totally Blind"?—an account of the occupations now pursued by the blind—the story of "Sunshine House" for Blind Babies—are among the many interesting features of this unique issue of the *Daily Mirror*.

OOOO

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

THE following entertainments will be held at the National Library for the Blind, 18 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1. All those interested are cordially invited:—

Monday, November 22nd, at 8 o'clock p.m.
"The Art of Parody," with examples, by E. Le Breton Martin, Esq.

Monday, December 20th, at 7.45 p.m. Concert Lecture on "Church Music and Carols," by Mr. Alderman H. Keatley Moore, J.P., Mus. Bac. Numerous and varied illustrations will be sung by Mr. Moore's Choir, numbering about 22 voices.

OOOO

LIKE most other large centres, Keighley has within its borders practical evidence of the remarkably great work performed by the St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors. An Ingrow lad named James H. Hey joined the "First Sixth," and went out to France in the early days of the war. He was badly knocked about, had both his legs broken, and has been blind through the bursting of a shell since the early part of 1918. He was sent to St. Dunstan's in January, 1919, and after undergoing training as a boot and clog repairer, he was presented with a hut and the necessary tools for carrying on his newly-acquired trade. He is now in business for himself in the hut at Ebenezer Square, Ingrow, and is doing nicely.



CENTRE PAGE OF SPECIAL "MIRROR" NUMBER

NATIONAL INSTITUTE EDITION OF THE WORKS OF BRITISH BLIND COMPOSERS

ARRANGEMENTS have just been completed with Messrs. Ryalls and Jones of Liverpool, to bring out a special edition of music to be called "The National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers." Owing to the very generous terms offered by this firm, the blind composer will be able to obtain a better remuneration for his work than if it were published under the usual conditions; he will have his music extensively "travelled"; and in addition to this, special arrangements are being made to give concerts, recitals, and lectures, at which the music of blind composers will be performed. Also every effort will be made to interest sighted musicians in the new scheme, in order that they may include numbers from the National Institute Edition in their concert and recital programmes and that they may introduce not only this edition but other music by blind composers to their pupils.

Mr. Edward Watson, Music Publications' Adviser to the National Institute (organist at Holy Trinity, Tulse Hill), will not only participate in the above named objects, but he is devoting much care and attention to preparing an accurate staff notation copy for the publisher, so that the music may be set out in the clearest possible way.

Mr. Watson is especially well equipped for this class of work, as he has had many years' experience as a Musical Editor. It is important, indeed essential, that the music included in this edition should be thoroughly good, whether it is conceived in a light or serious vein, in order that the edition may be recognised by the musical public as a hall mark of genuine artistic excellence.

There are at the present time many blind composers of real ability, only a few of these being at all well known, so the National Institute Edition has ample scope for being of service to those who fully deserve support, and incidentally it will undoubtedly make a valuable contribution to the modern British School of Composition. As a foretaste of what may be expected, the following works have been accepted for publication:—

Five Lyric Pieces for the piano (useful for teaching), A. J. Thompson. Minuet Antique, for the organ, H. Watling. Echo, Baritone song, W. Wolstenholme. Scherzo in B flat,

for piano, F. W. Priest. Two songs and two piano pieces, Sinclair Logan. Ten Miniatures for the piano, H. Watling. Noël (a very charming little piece for the piano), W. Wolstenholme. A very attractive recital piano piece by A. Wrigley.

Full particulars of the new scheme will be supplied to all those interested in the subject.
H. C. Warrilow.

FILMS AND THE EYESIGHT

IT is an undoubted fact that continued visits to the "movies" are conducive to eye-strain, though people who only patronise them at intervals may not suffer from it. In any case, to look at a screen continuously for two or three hours is not natural. Remember you are looking fixedly at a *near* object, which is always bad for the eyes.

Gaze at a landscape or out to sea for as long as you like, and you will feel no strain, but watch the hand of an electric clock outside a building for the half-minute jerk forward, and you will find the difference. It is as if someone were pulling steadily at the eyeballs!

The best seat at a cinema from an optical standpoint is one about thirty to fifty feet from the screen and on a level with its centre. A person sitting any closer has to raise the eyeballs from the horizontal, which has a straining effect on them, being especially harmful to the nerve which one uses to raise the eye to the required position.

In some halls there are numbers of "side seats" from which the picture appears distorted, and the practice of watching a film from this position is extremely injurious to the vision. It is especially necessary that young children should be given good seats in the cinema, as their eyes are much more likely to be affected than those of adults.

A good deal, of course, depends upon the perfection of the film and the skill of the operator. The "flicker" varies considerably in different halls; the film which appears in a London hall, newly released and as perfect as yet possible, has degenerated considerably by the time it has reached the provincial "gaff."

There can be no doubt that some worn-out films are extremely injurious to the eyes, and the exhibition of them should be

prevented in the public interest, especially as many of the shows are largely patronised by children spending their "Saturday pennies."

There are certain principles which should be observed in all cinemas. For instance, it is most harmful to have too striking a contrast between the screen and the hall itself. In many small cinemas the hall is kept completely dark, with the result that the eyes suffer from the great contrast of light and dark. The best theatres now use a soft diffused light throughout the amphitheatre, which does not impair the image on the screen, while lessening the strain upon the eye.

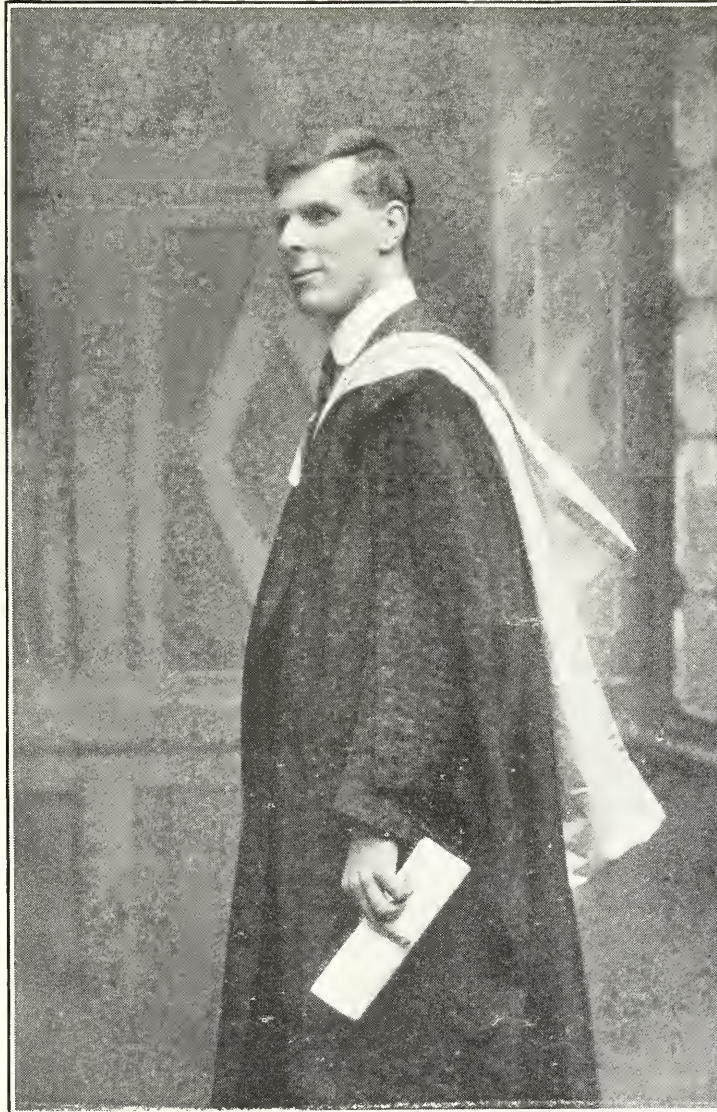
In cinemas a good matt-white screen is usually employed, but a newer kind composed of aluminium powder has been introduced, as it gives greater brilliancy and economises in the consumption of light. These screens, however, give varied degrees of brightness when viewed from different positions, and cannot be recommended from an optical standpoint.

Another cause of eye-strain in the old style cinema occurs in the interval. The hall is plunged in darkness, when—snap!—the eye winces before the sudden flood of light which has been switched on "for a rest between the pictures." You only want to look round at the blinking eyes to see how harmful this is. The lights of a cinematograph theatre should be controlled so that they gradually fade away before a film is shown and illumine the hall gradually when light is desired.

BLIND MUSIC LIBRARIAN

WE reproduce in these pages the photograph of Mr. Harry Victor Spanner, Mus.Bac., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., who is the Music Librarian of the National Library for the Blind, Westminster. Born at Portsmouth

in 1889, Mr. Spanner received his first training at the Hants and Isle of Wight School for the Blind, and he entered the Royal Normal College as a Gardner scholar in 1905. At the age of seventeen he obtained the Lafontaine prize for the A.R.C.O. This prize was awarded to the winner of the highest number of marks, and it will be of interest to readers to hear that Mr. Spanner was the first blind person to receive that distinction. Before attaining the age of twenty-one Mr. Spanner gained the degree of Mus.Bac. In 1913 he became assistant organist at Portsea Parish Church. He held this post for three years, and during this time he supplied the organ accompaniment for the performance of



MR. H. V. SPANNER, MUSIC LIBRARIAN OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND, WESTMINSTER

many oratorios, amongst these being "The Dream of Gerontius" and Brahms' "Requiem." He was appointed Music Librarian to the National Library for the Blind in 1916.

Mr. Spanner has made a successful transcription of Mr. F. Corder's book, "The Orchestra," for the use of students of the Royal Normal College. This includes several examples of complete score excerpts. He has been a prominent member of the Braille Music Notation Committee since 1911, and is

now rendering invaluable service by preparing the text of the new revised key to Braille Music which has formed the basis of discussion at Braille Music Notation meetings. This key will be published in the course of next year.

Besides being an excellent organist, Mr. Spanner is also a very capable pianist, and gives monthly piano recitals at the National Institute for the Blind. On these occasions the programmes consist of music which is already in Braille, and especially likely to be of service to music teachers. Attention should also be called to Mr. Spanner's reviews of the music published at the National Institute for the Blind or transcribed at the National Library for the Blind. These reviews appear month by month in the *Braille Musical Magazine*.

0000

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND

A PLEA for the provision of more embossed books for the blind was made at the recent session of the Library Association's Conference at Norwich by Mr. J. Bulman Smith, M.A., who is himself blind. Mr. Smith said there was an increasing demand for such books.

Mr. Shaw (Liverpool) considered that there ought to be a levy on libraries for the maintenance of a national library for the blind.

The Chairman (Mr. Tedder) said he had much sympathy with this plea for the blind, for he had been for a time in that condition himself. He knew how great was the loss to a blind person of the power of reading books. Friends could read to you, but they could not skip for you, and he had always held that the great art of reading lay in knowing, how to skip. Could blind people, used to embossed books, acquire this art?

Mr. Bulman Smith replied that it was possible for the blind to develop powers by which they could skip to a certain extent.

0000

To be honest; to be kind; to earn a little; to spend a little less; to make upon the whole a family happier for his presence; to renounce when that shall be necessary and not to be embittered; to keep a few friends, but these without capitulation; above all, on the same grim condition, to keep friends with himself—here is a task for all that a man has of fortitude and delicacy.

R. L. S.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

SEPTEMBER, 1920

FICTION

- *Those Who Smiled and other Stories, 2 vols. *P. Gibbon*
- *Terrible Island, 2 vols. *B. Grimshaw*
- *Mr. Meeson's Will, 2 vols. *Sir Rider Haggard*
- Queed (Uncontracted Braille), 9 vols. *H. S. Harrison*
- One Thousand and One Anecdotes, 6 vols. *A. H. Miles*
- Brown—A Story of Waterloo Year, 2 vols. *D. Moore*
- El Dorado, 6 vols. *Baroness Orczy*
- Weaver of Webs, 3 vols. *J. Oxenham*
- *Foul Play, 4 vols. *C. Reade*
- Cousin Phillip, 4 vols. *Mrs. H. Ward*

MISCELLANEOUS

- A Walk in Other Worlds with Dante, 2 vols. *M. S. Bainbrigge*
- Pantaloon; Twelve Pound Look; Rosalind; The Will; What Every Woman Knows; 3 vols. *Sir J. Barrie*
- Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation, 6 vols. *The Venerable Bede*
- Life in Grace, 2 vols. *Walter Carey*
- Through the Magic Door, 2 vols. *Sir A. Conan Doyle*
- Napoleon the First (E. W. Austin Memorial Book), 14 vols. *A. Fournier*
- Life and Letters of Stopford Brooke, 11 vols. *L. P. Jacks*
- Story of our Submarines, 3 vols. "Klaxon"
- Mystical Knowledge of God, 1 vol. *S. Louismet*
- From Theosophy to Christian Faith, 2 vols. *E. R. McNeile*
- Mohammed and the Rise of Islam (E. W. Austin Memorial Book), 6 vols. *D. S. Margoliouth*
- Reynard the Fox, 1 vol. *J. Masefield*
- *"New Guide" Arithmetic, Book IV. (Scholars and Teachers), 6 vols. *A. C. Pearson*
- *Easy Dictionary, 12 vols. *Edited by A. C. Pearson*
- Kossovo—Heroic Songs of the Serbs, 1 vol. *Translated by H. Rootham*
- Occult World, 4 vols. *A. P. Sinnett*
- Studies in Prose and Verse, 5 vols. *A. Symonds*
- Garibaldi's Defence of the Roman Empire, 6 vols. *G. N. Trevelyan*
- Epics of Ancient India, 1 vol. *Vivekananda*
- *Outline of History, vols. 4, 5, 6. *H. G. Wells*

FOREIGN

- *Contes Faciles (with notes), 1 vol. *Marc Ceppi*
- *Shorter Latin Primer, 1 vol. *B. J. Kennedy*
- *Capi et sa Troupe, 2 vols. *H. Malot*
- Pierre et Thérèse, 5 vols. *Marcel Prevost*

* Stereotyped Books.

0000

CONSIDER what you have in the smallest chosen library. A company of the wisest and wittiest men that could be picked out of all civil countries in a thousand years have set in best order the results of their learning and wisdom.

Emerson.

The BEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. IV.—No. 48.

DECEMBER, 1920.

PRICE 3D.

3S. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	Why do Blind Men Look up?	8
Opening of Charles Dickens St. Dunstan's Home at St. Leonards	3	Your Income Tax	9
St. Dunstan's Massage Clinic	4	Fair at Devonshire House	11
Insurance for the Blind	5	How to Conquer a Bad Memory	12
The Blind Man's Zoo	6	National Library for the Blind	13
		Christmas Gifts for the Blind	14

EDITORIAL



IN the *The Teacher for the Blind* for November there appears a passage which we, as Editor of *The Beacon*, feel should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. Miss Cramp, addressing a meeting of the Association of Teachers of the Blind on the subject of their magazine, said: "There is at present only one magazine in print. This magazine is *The Beacon*, which is the property of the National Institute for the Blind, and which has therefore a prescribed sphere and a definite programme of its own. There is no publication which represents the various blind societies up and down the country or the isolated workers for the blind. It seems to me that it would be possible and desirable to widen the scope of *The Teacher of the Blind* by including in it articles and news relating to the various societies or the work of individuals in the blind world."

Now, in answer to this we would like to point out that the National Institute for the Blind is, as its name implies, a national undertaking, that its sphere is only prescribed in so much that it deals nationally with everything that means enlightenment amongst and betterment for the lot of the blind community of the Empire. That is its programme,

and that we endeavour to make the programme of *The Beacon*. The publication of by far the greatest amount of Braille literature throughout the world and the sole publication of books and magazines in Moon type, the establishment of homes for blind babies, the higher education of blind boys and girls, the teaching of the art of massage to blind students of both sexes and the establishment of them in their profession, the teaching and training of blind people in their own homes, the imparting of specialised business training, the care of soldiers and sailors blinded in the war, the foundation of a residential club for blind work-girls, the production of Braille music, and an employment bureau for blind pianoforte tuners and organists, the care of the deaf-blind, the provision of guest-houses for aged and indigent blind people of all classes, grants to other institutions in connection with the welfare of the blind amounting to tens of thousands of pounds a year, relief work among the destitute blind covering a vast field—are these matters of national importance or do they merely cover a "prescribed sphere?" Surely the question is one that can be answered without hesitation by fair-minded folk, who, as we, hold the interests of those handicapped by loss of vision to be our paramount aim.

The programme of *The Beacon* is, of course, the programme of its parent, the

National Institute for the Blind. We defy anyone to read through its pages and say in it are to be found any special eulogiums of the National Institute, or that we do not try as far as lies in our power to present month by month a magazine dealing with a host of topics that will interest and instruct all working for the same great cause that we have in view.

But we do not wish to elaborate our point unduly. May we hasten to say that we wish the promoters of *The Teacher of the Blind* every success in their plans for broadening the basis of their magazine? They may be assured of every assistance from the editorial of *The Beacon*, for we know that when everything is said that can be said, the names forming the Association of Teachers of the Blind speak for themselves. They are the names of men and women who represent a devotion that needs no emphasis here to the cause we also endeavour to adorn. And for that reason, if for no other, we trust that we too may be allowed to give an earnest of our own wishes by further improving our magazine, and enlisting many new friends and contributors in 1921.

A happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all our readers, and in conclusion we cordially invite contributions to our pages. We shall be only too delighted to throw open our columns to any form of discussion, to ventilate any topic that is of interest to those working for the blind, to give publicity to any new suggestion in educational, professional or general topics.

The only axes we have to grind are a better understanding, a closer co-operation and a thorough ventilation of interests. The finer edge we can put on those axes, the keener and more efficient we can make the hands that wield them, the better for us all. It was Theodore Roosevelt who said: "The first requisite of a good citizen is that he shall be able and willing to pull his weight; that he shall not be a mere passenger, but shall do his share in the work that each generation of us finds ready to hand."

OOOO

AT the wedding of Miss Sonia Keppel and the Hon. Roland Cubitt, which took place last month at the Guards' Chapel, the floral decorations were carried out by a blinded officer of the Scots Guards, Mr. Douglas Hope, who is a cousin of the bride. Mr. Hope has taken a florist's shop near Piccadilly, and since the wedding this has been the centre of much interest.

WHAT A BLINDED SOLDIER SAW

THE following account by Mr. Herbert Thompson, of the West Yorkshire Regiment, an inmate of St. Dunstan's, appeared in the *Daily Express* of November 12th:—

The ceremony in the Abbey left an indelible impression on my mind—a feeling of ineffable sadness and melancholy, yet there was a message of inspiration and hope. I felt as if the spirit of the Unknown Warrior had whispered in my ear, "Courage, brother; hope on."

I was one of the lucky three chosen by ballot from 170 blind inmates of St. Dunstan's.

I understood all, even though every step and every movement was explained to me by an accompanying guide. The atmosphere was impregnated with meaning. The Great Alchemist, by some miracle, vouchsafed to me a more powerful vision than those who had eyes to see. Clear-cut pictures of France and Flanders rose up before me. The dread solemnity of the occasion stirred the most poignant memories. I felt with my comrades almost ashamed that I had given so little, while he who lay sleeping by us had given all.

I stood near the tomb of a mighty king. Not far away were the hundred V.C.s. I heard them limp to their places and knew who they were. The solemn rolling of the drums and the slow martial music of the massed bands meant more to me, perhaps, than to other people. When the long roll of the *réveillé* echoed away in the distance I thought a cloud had passed over my head and had been chased away by the sunshine.

Then with my comrades I was granted a privilege denied to all others. Each of us had been given a chrysanthemum before we left St. Dunstan's. Others had placed their wreaths at the foot of the coffin. A hand guided us, and we were allowed to bestow our tribute on the coffin itself. We spoke in the name of our blind comrades, and I felt a supreme emotion as my fingers brushed the resting place of the unknown hero. I came to the Abbey glad that I had been chosen from among so many. I went away sorrowing, but with the message of hope locked in my heart.

OPENING OF CHARLES DICKENS ST. DUNSTAN'S HOME AT ST. LEONARDS



ON Monday, November 15th, a very interesting Annexe of St. Dunstan's was opened at St. Leonards-on-Sea. It is intended for the permanent care of soldiers and sailors who, besides being blinded in the war, were disabled to such an extent that they are unable to carry on one of the many professions and industries which their more fortunate comrades have learned at St. Dunstan's.

The House, formerly known as "Bannow," now re-christened the Charles Dickens St. Dunstan's Home, was generously bought by the Dickens Fellowship, who, under the leadership of Mr. W. W. Crotch, raised £13,590 among the lovers of Charles Dickens, sufficient to pay for it, also for its adaptation and furnishing.

The opening ceremony was performed by Sir Arthur Pearson, who thanked the inhabitants of St. Leonards and Hastings for the interest they had taken in the welfare of the men who will be accommodated in this new establishment, and who, while it was in course of preparation, have been living in another house at St. Leonards. He said that he was quite sure that local interest in the men who had suffered such terrible deprivation in the war would never flag, and that this annexe of St. Dunstan's would never lack generous sympathisers throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire. Sir Arthur Pearson also paid a warm tribute of thanks to Mr. Crotch and the members of the Dickens Fellowship, who had shown such remarkable generosity in the setting up of this much-needed establishment. He much regretted the fact that, owing to a business engagement, Mr. Crotch himself was unable to be present.

He was followed by Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, who paid an eloquent tribute to the work that Sir Arthur Pearson had done for the blind of the whole world,

not only by his untiring efforts on their behalf, but also as a man who had introduced a new attitude towards those who, like Sir Arthur and himself, were handicapped by the loss of sight.

Mr. Perrins, the ex-Mayor of Hastings, then spoke, as representing Mr. Alderman Fellows, the Mayor, who was unfortunately unable to be present. He said "that no name in the British Isles was held in greater reverence than that of Sir Arthur Pearson, the friend of the blind. Speaking for Hastings and St. Leonards, he wished all success to Sir Arthur's work, and assured the audience that that work would be furthered with all the ardour and enthusiasm possible."

The visitors, amongst whom were Sir Rider and Lady Haggard, then inspected the Hostel, the arrangements and necessary alterations to which reflect the highest credit on Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind, and on the architect, Mr. A. M. Cawthorne, 121 Victoria Street, London, under whom the work was carried out.

A tablet, with inscription, was to have been unveiled at the opening ceremony, but owing to the great pressure on the works providing war memorials of all kinds, it was found impossible to have it placed in the entrance hall before the day of opening.

OOOO

ONE of the most familiar figures on the Brighton front is the blind news vendor, to be heard in all weathers cheerily crying the latest news. A newspaper correspondent recently met him on the esplanade, in front of the Ship Hotel, contented as ever. "I have been selling newspapers for thirty-one years," (he is thirty-seven now) he said. "I do not grumble, although I had my sight until I was nineteen. A severe blow on the back of the head at football was the cause of the trouble, and do you know," he whispered, confidentially, "*I am happier now than I was before.*"

ST. DUNSTAN'S MASSAGE CLINIC

THE following account appeared recently in the *Daily Telegraph*:—

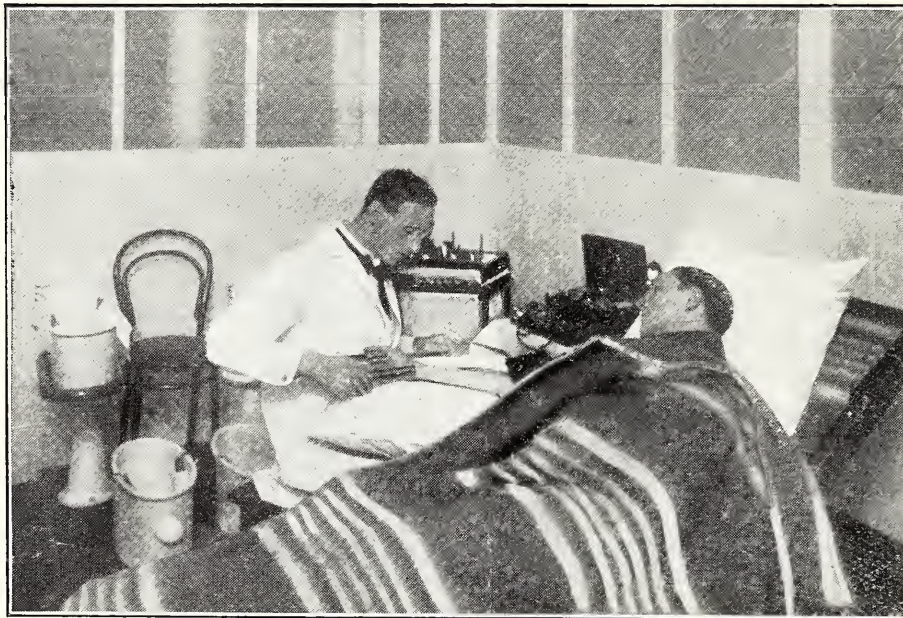
"A massage clinic ready of access to busy City men, civilians or ex-soldiers, is a convenience which has only to become known to be widely utilised. There are many people for whom massage is prescribed, whether for such complaints as lumbago or rheumatism, for wounds, or for a hundred and one ordinary injuries, who find it by no means easy to obtain the treatment they require. Travelling to and from the City occupies much of their spare time before and after the usual professional or business hours, and it is often difficult or altogether impossible to fix engagements which will secure the regular treatment which is so desirable. Those who

have suffered in this way should find the new clinic, which is now open at 18 Christopher Street, Finsbury Square, a great boon. It has been established by St. Dunstan's, and enough is known of the success of the trained and certified masseurs produced by this institution to make unnecessary any further tribute to the skill and care placed at the disposal of City men by this experiment. No less an authority than Sir Robert Jones, the famous surgeon and Inspector of Military Orthopædics, has testified to the exceptional quality of the blind masseur and to the wonderful touch with which he is endowed. One sighted masseuse and a number of trained blind masseurs are to compose the staff of the new City clinic, and their success, if the

experience of similar existing institutions at Liverpool and Bristol are a criterion, is a foregone conclusion.

The Christopher Street premises comprise four treatment rooms, one of which will be also utilised as a consulting room. Arrangements have been made with Dr. G. Murray Levick, of St. Thomas's and Shepherd's Bush Orthopædic Hospitals, and Dr. R. C. Bailey, of St. George's Hospital, for consultations when desired, and treatment will only be given when prescribed by either of these doctors or the patient's own medical man. The treatment rooms are equipped with the most modern apparatus, and the interior throughout has been designed with a view to comfort and cheerfulness. The blind

masseurs are enabled to read the strength of current to which a patient is being subjected by means of a galvanometer equipped with levers, which lock the needle at the moment the reading is being taken upon an indicator marked with the Braille numerals. Accu-



BLINDED SOLDIER MASSEUR AT WORK AT THE NEW MASSAGE AND ELECTROTHERAPEUTIC CLINIC WHICH HAS JUST BEEN OPENED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ST. DUNSTAN'S AT 18 CHRISTOPHER STREET, FINSBURY SQUARE

racy to one-tenth of a milliampère can be achieved by this device, which is the invention of Captain Ian Fraser, an officer who lost his sight in the war and who is now responsible for the settlement of blinded masseurs in this country. He hopes that a permanent livelihood will be assured at the new clinic for a number of these masseurs. Arrangements have been made which will enable eighty patients to be dealt with per day. The clinic is opened under the approval of the Ministry of Pensions, and ex-officers and men who work in the City will at the outset be amongst the clientèle. The initial successes should have the effect of establishing a connection which will ensure a permanent practice being maintained for the benefit

of the City worker generally."

We should like to add that the following blinded soldier-masseurs are settled, each with an up-to-date room, for giving massage and electro-therapeutic treatments :—

BATES, E., 21 Prince of Wales Road, Battersea, S.W. (Tel.: Latchmere 4087).

BREGAZZI, C. A. C., 63 Gladsmuir Road, Highgate

COLLINS, W., 29a Kensington Gardens Square, W. (Tel.: Park 4943).

GRAY, D., 4 Colosseum Terrace, Regents Park, N.W.1. (Tel.: Museum 5980).

HARPER, J., 28 Manchester Street, W. (Tel.: Mayfair 7039).

MACKEY, S. C., 16 Elsie Road, Dulwich, S.E. (Tel.: New Cross 293).

PUGH, H., 30 Marlborough Hill, St. John's Wood, N.W.8. (Tel.: Hampstead 8476).

OXENHAM, W. H. J., 184 Green Lanes, Finsbury Park, N.4. (Tel.: North, 2696).

RUSSELL, C. J. V., 358 Upper Richmond Rd., Putney, S.W. (Tel.: Putney 1706).

WESTWICK, M. C., 6 Yarrell Mansions, Queen's Club Gardens, Kensington, W. (Tel.: Hammersmith 2422).

TOFT, E., 6 Portman Mansions, Baker Street, W. (Tel.: Mayfair 6856).

WARREN, N., 6 Portman Mansions, Baker Street, W. (Tel.: Mayfair 6856).

LLOYD, L. D., 50 Hornsey Rise, N.

THOMAS, E. G., 3 Beech House Road, Croydon. (Tel.: Croydon 1187).

TARRY, S. C., 25 Spencer Road, Wandsworth, S.W. (Tel.: Latchmere 4181).

WOOLLEN, A. J., 39 Holland Road, East Ham, E.

Applications for masseurs may also be made to the Secretary, Association of Certified Blind Masseurs, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1., and will receive immediate attention.

OOOO

WORCESTER COLLEGE FOR BLIND BOYS

AN excellent concert was given at Worcester College for the Higher Education for Blind Boys on November 9th, Founder's Day. Songs and recitations, both serious and gay, formed attractive items of the programme, whilst the band of the Worcester-shire Regimental Depot responded nobly to the many calls for extras. In associating himself with Mr. Wallace's expression of thanks to the artistes, the Headmaster took the opportunity of explaining why November 9th is celebrated as Founder's Day. In 1866 the Rev. William Taylor, who had acted as a chaplain to a School for the Blind in York, came to Worcester and made the acquaintance of the Rev. H. Blair, at that time Fifth Form Master at the King's School. Mr. Blair was much interested in a blind boy named

McNeile (now the Vicar of Brafferton), in his form who was being prepared for entrance into Trinity College, Dublin. These two decided that it was desirable that a separate school for blind boys should be founded, and Mr. Blair became the first headmaster. It was in the days of the Rev. S. S. Foster, who became headmaster in 1872, that the College became established as a public school, and it is Mr. Foster's birthday that is now annually celebrated as Founder's Day.

OOOO

INSURANCE FOR THE BLIND.

AS official agents for the National Institute for the Blind, Messrs. Clark, Cooper and Steel, Insurance Brokers and Advisers, Cromwell House, High Holborn, call attention to various schemes of insurance which they have specially arranged for the blind community. They bring before our notice, amongst other items, a "Hand Disablement Insurance," whereby, for an annual premium of £3 15s., a weekly indemnity can be procured amounting to £6 per week for disablement to the left hand, £8 for the right, and £12 for both hands, for every week above three weeks during which the insured person is incapacitated, up to a limit of 52 weeks. For permanent injury or amputation to the whole or any part of the hands lump sums are payable ranging from £100 to £1,000. Half this premium will, of course, procure half the benefits and double the premium double the benefits, and so on.

Messrs. Clark, Cooper & Steel have also arranged with one or two of the first-class Life Companies that they should accept blind people at the ordinary rates of premium applicable to the sighted. Provided the applicant for such an insurance is physically fit otherwise, blindness will not be considered as a detriment. Such advantages have not been generally offered before. They have also succeeded in inducing several of the Companies to accept personal accident insurance at the ordinary rates. Further particulars, together with necessary forms for completing the insurance, may be had from Messrs. Clark, Cooper & Steel, who will be pleased to give their advice freely on any point of doubt.

THE BLIND MAN'S ZOO

(By F. Le G. Clark)



ONCE I suggested to a friend blinded like myself that we should visit the Zoo together. He made reply that there seemed as little point in going to the Zoo as there would be had I suggested the Royal Academy; he said forcibly that he preferred a concert.

I was surprised at his ignorance, and even in the end persuaded him up to Regent's Park; I may flatter myself that I taught him something of the possibilities that the Zoo holds for such blind folk as care to examine it. My mind took a further step, and conjectured whether most of us may not be in the same lamentable ignorance as my friend. To crown all came another motive less entirely altruistic; perhaps, I thought, others have discovered secrets and corners of the Zoo as yet withheld from me; in that case I may be able to attract from them answering letters, memory responding to memory in people as yet unknown to me. Hence this article, scrappy and inconclusive no doubt, but covering a subject of immense interest to myself.

Most of the sighted visitors gaze at the creatures as though they were animated pictures, coloured no doubt, and possessing smell, but no more. What's the good of that? Believe me, to appreciate the real throbbing vitality of a creature, its active brain, its vibrating muscles, you must have placed your hands upon it, and read, as it were, by sympathy, its keen, restless, enquiring mind. Not all animals at the Zoo can be nursed, of course; far from it. But far more are tame and friendly than most people suspect. A word to the keepers, and you will be made as free as may be of their charges. Only, as you handle the furry bodies, try to comprehend the mind of the beast, feel its nose upon your coat, its paws against your hand. You will go away knowing far more about the reality of animal-life than do all the idle sightseers who wander aimlessly from cage to cage.

Take the Small Cat House first of all. It is conveniently situated near the Park entrance of the Gardens, and is full of interest. The Cheetah, that sleek, long, mysterious animal, is, alas, no longer there; he loved to be stroked and fondled, and purred his pleasure through the bars. There are, however, three specimens of a strange family, all friends of mine. They are the Racoon, the Panda, and the Kinkajou. They come, these three, with various other species, somewhere between the dogs and the bears, more closely allied to the latter than to the former, and not so very far away from the weasels and otters. The Racoon lives here only in the winter; he is the pet of a house somewhere in Scotland, and is accordingly very somnolent and condescending. Nursing him is like hugging a great solid muff of a body; from the top end pokes out his little bear-like head, and his bushy tail comes out behind. Feel his paws; they are capable little things, that can grip and convey food to his mouth. He even washes his food before eating it. There is something thoughtful and very wise about him, or is it only sleepiness?

Rosie, the Kinkajou, comes forth with a bound. She is one of those South American tree-beasts, with a long prehensile tail, and she makes full use of it. As you hold her in your arms, the long tail is automatically twining behind your back, feeling for a purchase on your other arm, or upon your pocket. Catch her by the tail and she will swing happily for a few moments upon your arm; then round she comes, her paws catching at your coat and her eager nose sniffing this way and that. The tail is like a fifth hand to her: just that extra safeguard in the wild arboreal life that is her proper environment. I believe that she thinks, if one can use the term, as much with her tail as her hands; and when you catch at its coiling probing length, you will vaguely realise all it means to her.

The Pandas are less friendly, or more retiring; I am not sure which. Like small racoons, with large ears and bushy tails, they will take food from your hand, and sit nibbling it in their paws, but they will not be nursed. They come from the Himalayas, and their other name, the "Cat Bear," shows how severely they puzzled their first discoverers.

While in the Small Cat House, do not pass by the tiny North African fox, that most inoffensive of dwarves. His hair is wonderfully thick and soft, and his big ears flop above his gentle little face. I believe that when at home he buries himself in the sand.

One cannot review the whole Zoo in a single article. Let me conclude by acting as a manner of signpost, standing at the crossways, and indicating the open opportunities. There is, for example, the elephant house, with the elephant's trunk coming to you through the bars, the South American tapir to be patted, and, if

you are lucky, the rhinoceros asleep against the bars in such wise that you can feel his thick plates of skin and the vulnerable grooves between them. There is the little Syrian bear, now unfortunately growing too old to pet. But he can still be approached and fed. Three bears even smaller have just arrived, Himalayan, I believe, and they may be felt, fed, and wrestled with as far as their keeper will have patience with you. It grieves me to recall how the three baby bears in the Mappin Terrace were eaten by their mother; they were the most delightful infants imaginable, and could be cuddled indefinitely. But it was too much for the poor mother. Her instinct was to hide them, in a cave if it were possible, but, failing that, in any manner that suggested

itself; and so, one night, feeling them too completely under the gaze of the world, she consumed them all. It was a strange hiding-place to choose, but the only adequate one that her anxious blind instinct could suggest to her.

There are the parrots and the penguins, the camels and the llamas, the squirrels and the armadillos. One could drift on interminably. But I have got the burden of this article off my shoulders, and if it bear fruit to myself, it will amply have been worth while.

OOOO

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MESSAGE LIBRARY

The following have been added to the Message Library:—

Chronic Paroxysmal Trigeminal Neuralgia and its treatment, by Wilfred Harris (pocket edition).

Massage in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Re-education of Amputation Cases, by James B. Mennell (pocket edition).

Meaning of Tachycardia, by R. Macnair Wilson (pocket edition).

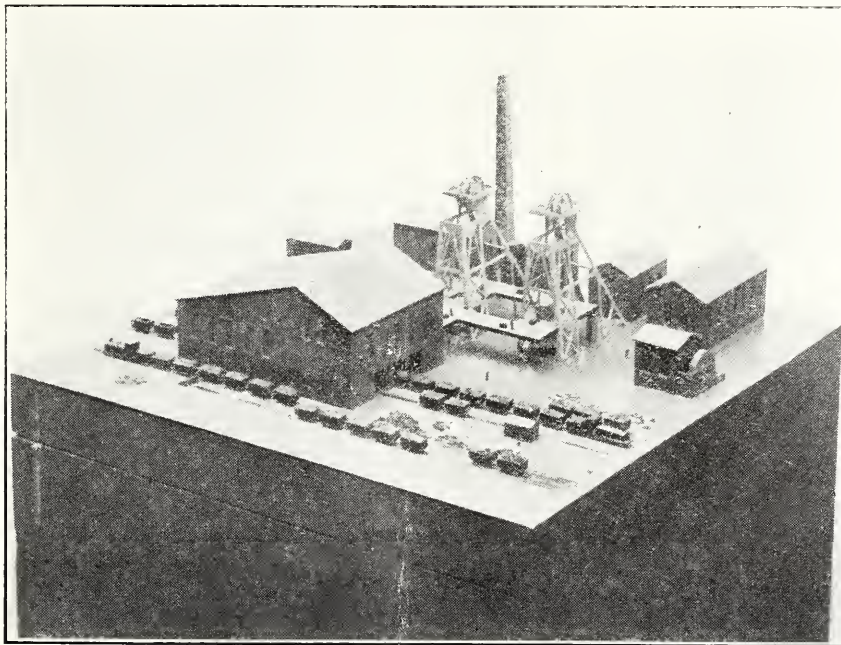
Principles of Muscle Training, by John S. B. Stopford (pocket edition).

Psychological

Factor in Functional Nervous Disorders, by Major M. Beresford Wright (pocket edition).

OOOO

A PUBLIC LECTURE, under the auspices of "The Braille and Service of the Blind League," will be given on Tuesday, December 14th, at 8 p.m., at Mortimer Hall, 93 Mortimer Street, W.1, by Miss C. M. Bellhouse (Librarian, Northern Branch, National Library for the Blind). Her subject will be "The Place of Books in the Lives of the Blind." Mrs. Maude Sharpe will take the chair, and during the evening there will be songs at the piano by Miss Minnie Williams.



MODEL OF A COAL MINE RECENTLY COMPLETED FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES AMONGST THE BLIND

WHY DO BLIND MEN LOOK UP?

IN a letter recently addressed to the *Daily Express* the interesting query was raised as to why a blind man generally walks with his head thrown back. Sir Arthur Pearson, in his reply to this question, says:—

“The question is one which I have often asked myself, and have found it very difficult to answer.

“Three years ago I found myself getting in the habit of walking along with my face turned towards the sky. I asked people who walked with me to give me a little tap on the back of the head as a reminder of what I was doing, for the action was performed quite unconsciously. Just lately I have again found myself apt to throw my head back when walking about.

“Curiously enough, the tendency never seems to come on one unless walking, and that out of doors. I think a possible explanation may be that though, so far as the blind man is concerned, his sight is entirely gone, there still remains some little response on the part of the optic nerve to the strong glare of sunshine, and the head instinctively turns upwards towards this.

“If any of your readers have a better explanation to offer, I, and I am sure many other blind people, would be very glad to hear of it. We are apt to be interested in our little peculiarities.”

A few days later the following letters appeared in the *Daily Express*:—

“To the Editor of the *Daily Express*.

“Sir,—I have lost not only my sight, but my eyes and the optic nerves. The greatest flash ever emitted at the will of Thor or Vulcan would be unnoticed by me, but I walk about the earth as if I were peering into heaven. Even when lecturing there is always a desire on my part to address my audience as if they were ensconced in the ceiling.

“I think the general ‘uplooking’ of the blind is the natural self-assertiveness with which we are all, more or less, imbued. The blind, feeling that their inferiority detracts from them when compared with their seeing brothers, assert themselves by carrying the head higher.

FRANK BATTEN,
(The blind lecturer on English
and French history)”

“Sir,—Referring to the controversy raised by one of your readers, and answered by Sir Arthur Pearson, as to the cause why blind men habitually walk along looking upwards, I would suggest the following as explanation:—

“When you ask a person to listen intently he will immediately cock his head upwards in a listening attitude. At blind man’s buff the child who is blindfolded, you will notice, also takes this attitude.

“Blind persons rely on their sense of hearing, being deprived of their sight, and naturally adopt this listening attitude.

J. PASQUE.”

“York Road, Southend.”

“Sir,—The fact that the blind hold up their heads when walking is due to a combination of reasons, in my opinion, one being the protective instinct, as even sighted people, walking in the dark, hold their heads back, to avoid their faces coming into contact with any object.

“The other reasons are of a scientific nature, connected with the semi-circular canals, as can be demonstrated by any sighted person trying to see how long he can stand with his eyes shut and his head down without feeling giddy.

BRUCE BRUCE-PORTER.”

“Grosvenor-street, W.1.”

We should be interested to hear our readers’ views on this subject.

OOOO

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. E. A. Snow, of Parklands, Hockley Road, Rayleigh, Essex, who was for some years a member of the staff of the National Institute for the Blind. He passed away early on the morning of Sunday, the 14th November, at 22b Alfoxton Avenue, Haringgay, London, N., after a very short illness.

Mr. Snow was forty-three years of age, and became blind when he was only seven years of age. At the age of twelve he went to the Royal Normal College for the Blind, where he received his education.

In 1909 he became associated with the Blind Social Aid Society and Literary Union, and for the last few years had acted in the capacity of chairman of the Society. Mr. Snow has left a wife and two children.

OOOO

LET us be content in work,
To do the thing we can, and not presume
To fret because it’s little. *E. B. Browning.*

YOUR INCOME TAX

A GUIDE ON PROBLEMS AT PRESENT PUZZLING THE PUBLIC



THE difficulties of filling in Income Tax papers are proverbial. Our readers will welcome therefore the following article on some of the new problems which have arisen owing to recent modifications of the Income Tax regulations. This article originally appeared in the *Evening Standard*, which has kindly permitted us to reprint it:—

YOUR ASSESSABLE INCOME

"Two new terms have been flung at us," says the writer, "taxable income" and "assessable income."

To ascertain your assessable income write down your total earned income for the year,

say £1000	
Deduct therefrom 1-10th	£100
	£900
Then add your unearned income	
from investment, say	£500

And the total..... £1400

is the "assessable income" from which certain allowances are deducted to arrive at the taxable income.

Incomes up to £2,000 a year are subject to Income tax, and those exceeding £2,000 a year are subject also to super-tax. For this reason the proportion of 1-10th by which earned income is reducible in calculating assessable income may not exceed £200.

The bachelor (or spinster) is, in the first instance, entitled to a deduction from the assessable income of £135 as "personal allowance." A further deduction of £45 may be made if the claimant has living with him and maintains his mother (widowed or living apart from her husband) or some other female relative for the purpose of taking charge of the claimant's brothers and sisters, who are children in respect of whom deductions are permissible.

WIDOWED MOTHER

Alternatively, in the absence of any children to be cared for, he may claim a deduction

of £25 in respect of the maintenance of his widowed mother, provided that her total income does not exceed £50 a year; and he may claim a further deduction of £25 in respect of each of any other relatives, incapacitated by old age or infirmity from maintaining themselves, and maintained by him; again provided that their total income does not exceed £50 a year.

In cases where the maintenance of such relatives is a charge divided between two or more persons, the allowance of £25 is to be apportioned between them in proportion to their contributions to that maintenance.

In addition, if the claimant maintains any children under the age of 16, or children over 16 years of age, who are receiving full-time educational instruction, such children not being entitled in their own right to an income of more than £40 a year (no account being taken of any income from an educational endowment or scholarship), he is entitled to make deductions in respect of the first child of £36, and in respect of each of the others of £27.

SOME EXAMPLES

How these deductions affect individual cases can best be illustrated by examples.

X, a single man not supporting any relatives, earning £5 a week and having no other source of income.

Actual income	£260
Deduct 1-10th	£26
	£234
Assessable income	£234
Personal allowance	£135

Taxable income £99

Z is employed at £3,000 per annum, and receives £1,000 a year in dividends on investments. A single man, he supports a brother of 14 and his widowed mother.

Earned income.....	£3,000
Less 1-10th of £2,000	£200—£2,800
Investment income	£1,000
	£3,800
Assessable income ...	£3,800
Allowance for mother.....	£45
Allowance for child.....	£36 —
	£81
Taxable income	£3,719

In the case of married couples a new element enters into the calculation of assessable income, which is arrived at as follows :—

Earned income of husband, say £500	
Less 1-10th (not exceeding £200) £50 —	£450
Plus husband's investment income,	
say	£100
„ wife's earned income (if any),	
say	£200
„ wife's investment income, say	£50
Assessable income	£800

The deductions which may be made from this commence with a figure of £225, representing the personal allowances of husband (£135) and wife (£90), if the wife is living with her husband or is wholly maintained by him.

Then specially offset against the income of the wife, comes an allowance equal to 9-10ths of the *earned* income of the wife, but not exceeding £45.

THE ALLOWANCES

The allowances for children apply under the same rules as already cited above, and children in this case include adopted and stepchildren.

In respect of the widowed mother of husband or wife, or any other relative of either incapacitated by old age or infirmity, whose income does not exceed £50 a year, an allowance of £25 in respect of each or any of them may be claimed when they are maintained by the claimant. A proportion only of the £25 is allowable in cases where the relative is jointly supported by two or more persons. To take an example :—

J. earns £500 a year and receives £100 a year from investments. His wife makes £200 a year in a business of her own and receives £50 a year from investments. They have two children under sixteen years of age, and the wife's widowed mother is maintained by them.

Husband's earned income, £500; Less 1-10th, £50—£450; Husband's investment income, £100; Wife's earned income, £200; Wife's investment income, £50—Assessable income, £800. Personal allowance, £225; Allowance in respect of wife's earned income, £45; Allowance for first child, £36; Allowance for second child, £27; Allowance for widowed mother, £25—£358. Taxable income, £442.

The widower or widow is entitled to the same personal allowance as the bachelor or spinster—£135—and to the same allowances as married couples in respect of children and widowed mother or incapacitated relatives maintained. In addition, if employing a relative or, failing a relative, some other woman to take care of the children, the claimant is entitled to an allowance of £45; and if, by reason of old age or infirmity, the claimant is dependent upon the services of a daughter resident with and maintained by him, to



[Alfieri Picture Service.
MERRY-GO-ROUND AT DEVONSHIRE HOUSE (see p. 11).

an allowance of £25.

All allowances may, according to circumstances, be claimed by the taxpayer, irrespective of the amount or character of his income.

LIFE ASSURANCE

The relief given in respect of life assurance premiums is calculated on a new basis. Policies are divided into two periods—those taken out before June 22, 1916, and those

taken out since that date. In respect of the latter an allowance of 3s. in the £ on the premiums, irrespective of the claimant's total of income, is made. The allowance on premiums on policies dated prior to June, 1916; varies as under :—

	Allowance
Where the income does not exceed £1,000	3s. in the £
When income is between £1,000 & £2,000	4s. 6d. in the £
When income exceeds £2,000.....	6s. in the £

One other point to remember in calculating your liability to income-tax is that persons employed in a subordinate capacity—that is, not holding a distinctive office, such as director, secretary, or chief of a department—can claim and will usually be granted assessment on the basis of the average of three years.

THE AMOUNT TO BE PAID

Having arrived at the "taxable" income, the calculation of the amount to be paid is simple enough. Income tax for the year 1920-21 has been fixed at the standard rate of 6s. in the £. On the first £225 of taxable income half the standard rate only is chargeable—that is, 3s. in the £. On any balance above £225 the full rate of 6s. in the £ will be charged.

Thus, to take an example given in this article, the bachelor X. would pay $99 \times 3 = 297$ shillings, or £14 17s.; had his taxable income been £299, he would pay $£225 \times 3 = 675$ shillings, plus $(299 - 225) 74 \times 6 = 444$ shillings; a total of 1,119 shillings, or £55 19s.

The following table shows the income tax charges in simple cases at round figures of earned income up to £2,000 a year :—

Earned Income	Married Couples					
	Bachelor			Without Children		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
160 ...	1	7	0	—	—	—
200 ...	6	15	0	—	—	—
250 ...	13	10	0	—	—	—
300 ...	20	5	0	6	15	0
400 ...	33	15	0	20	5	0
500 ...	60	15	0	33	15	0
600 ...	87	15	0	60	15	0
700 ...	114	15	0	87	15	0
800 ...	141	15	0	114	15	0
900 ...	168	15	0	141	15	0
1,000 ...	195	15	0	168	15	0
1,250 ...	263	5	0	236	5	0
1,500 ...	330	15	0	303	15	0
2,000 ...	465	15	0	438	15	0

FAIR AT DEVONSHIRE HOUSE

SHADES of Devonshire House and the Early Victorian period! For several days those spacious halls, where so many bright eyes have glanced, so many beauties of old have walked and bewitched, so many a sparkle of wit has flashed, were given up to the consideration of the needs and amusements of the 20th century child. The courtyard of this spacious mansion was given up to plebeian merry-go-rounds and hobby-horses; in the great halls where the belles of the Georgian days used to tread the stately measures of the minuet, children could be seen enjoying the informal romps and dances of to-day.

The occasion of this revelry was a very successful Childhood Exhibition and Toy Fair, held from November 22nd to December 4th, in aid of "Sunshine House" at Chorley Wood. The proceedings were opened by Princess Beatrice, the president of the Blind Babies' Home.

The stately banqueting hall and the magnificent ball-room were given up to stalls with all sorts of toys to delight children's hearts and foods to make them healthy. There was a cinema, where scenes from the lives of the blind babies were shown by the Gaumont Company's small home mechanism. There were live toys in the shape of canaries and puppy dogs, among them being a fine Alsatian puppy, who was the recipient of much attention and affection. There was a fine art section, where Mr. Harold Copping's pictures were on view, and some ideal plaques for nurseries, fashioned for sale by Mr. Inman Knox. It is sad to think that the historic old mansion—the residence of seven Dukes of Devonshire—should be going the way of all flesh and bricks and mortar, but the last scenes enacted within its walls are in any case worthy of the cause which they represented, and in keeping with the best traditions of the past.

OOOO

MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

THE next monthly concert will take place on Dec. 13th, when the Templars' Male Quartette, which gave so much pleasure last year, will again provide the programme. H. C. W.

BOXING DAY

BOXING-TIME—during which Christmas Boxes, or gratuities, are given to dependants, is no doubt an outcome of the ancient Roman gifts or "strenae." The term "box" has been so used in England since 1611, and it owes its origin to the earthenware box, having a slit in its lid, into which these vails were dropped. In Scotland and in the north of England Handsel, or Hansel Monday, the first Monday of the year, is the equivalent of Boxing Day.

○○○○

BALLAD OF BLINDNESS

(By F. Le G. Clark)

ALL my neighbours, visioned and sure, can lift their eyes to the Heaven's height, Tracing the drift of the Universes, watching the far star-swarms at birth ;
 Whilst I, you might say, imprisoned here without a glimpse of the Infinite,
 Must feel my strange familiar way through the stinging dust and the clinging earth.
 And yet, why not? I always loved them better perhaps than stars and sky—
 The great white scars of the quarried chalk, those cliffs of Devon red to the brow,
 The misty moors with the tors above them, granite glistening, hard and dry,
 And all the fringes of furrowed sand and loam that clings to the turning plough.
 Now is my love for them closer, hotter—the intimate love of man for wife—
 Examining slowly with foot and fingers the stones that batter, the loam that irks;
 Proving with more than a Potter's hands the plastic clay that enwraps my life,
 Wiser than even the sculptor is, in the smooth restraint of his marble works.
 Often I trudge in the motionless noontime over the tracts of the waste sea-sands,
 Rejoicing to feel them bound and flow, and answer my toes with lifting spring ;
 And the voices of ocean are less and less, as I stoop and scoop and sift with my hands
 The rasping atoms of every land, the tiny pebbles that salt and sting.
 Often I grope for the great chalk quarry, led by the echoing tap of tools,
 Till my face is aware of the resonant air, and dankness and breath of the pungent lime,

And laughing I walk where the ground grows soft, and my clothes are flecked from the miry pools ;

And I set my hands to the caking chalk, till it breaks in a thousand specks of slime.

Certainly I, that am lost and blind—a thing that tingles at every touch—

Delight, with a love that is almost life, in this intimate sense of rocks and clays,

Deeply resigned, in the heavy darkness that covers us both—not caring much—

I lose my thoughts in the blind Earth-mother, that folds and embarrasses all my ways. *Westminster Gazette.*

○○○○

HOW TO CONQUER A BAD MEMORY

THE following letter from a blind student who has successfully passed through the Pelman Course of Mind and Memory Training for the Blind is typical of many others, and shows a very keen appreciation of the system :—

October 21st, 1920.

There are several ways in which I am conquering a bad memory. Below I give the methods by which I have obtained the most benefit.

(1) I frequently have visitors calling to give their orders for various sizes of mats. I had great difficulty in remembering the sizes, names and addresses without taking them down straightaway on paper. Since taking on this course I have adopted the method of dotting them down in my memory. At first I practised carrying them in my memory for half-an-hour, then an hour, and so on, and now I can remember them for any length of time.

(2) I take a walk out in the country, and take particular notice of the different sounds and the direction from which they come, and on returning home I make a regular practice of writing them down from memory in their proper order, beginning at the end of my journey and going back to the start. I find by continuing this practice I have gone a long way towards conquering a bad memory.

(3) Before adopting these methods I had a bad memory in recognising my friends by their voices, and had to consider a long time who they were. I have paid great attention to their voices, hand-shakes, steps, and accents. Through the practice of this method

I can tell any of my friends without hesitation.

(4) Whenever I go to a public meeting or a church service I try to memorise all the main facts in the speeches and sermons, and on returning home I study them out and find their meaning, and I find by this practice I am developing a good memory and conquering a bad one.

(5) In remembering dates I have adopted the figure alphabet, figure sentence and the sentence calendar provided in the Pelman Course.

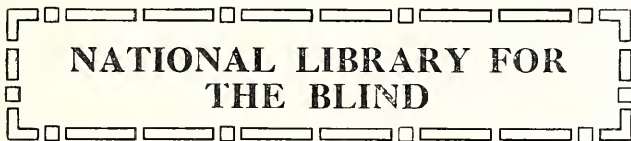
(6) I had a bad memory with reference to playing cards and dominoes; I could not remember what had been played. I have conquered this by practising the methods given in the first lesson of this wonderful system. Now I can memorise a pack of cards and a set of dominoes right through without hesitation.

All the above-mentioned methods I practise daily, and I find that by this means I am successfully conquering a bad memory. I can now remember for long periods, where I could only remember for a few seconds. It is to this wonderful system of mind and memory training that I owe all my future success, and I am only too sorry that I have not taken it up before, for I know if I had I should have been much nearer my aim in life.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all connected with the working out of this wonderful system for their generosity towards me, for this has enabled me to conquer a bad memory.

W. ROBINSON.

OOOO



NORTHERN BRANCH

STUDY Circles have been formed at the Northern Branch Library, 5 St. John Street, Manchester, to meet once a week throughout the winter for the study of special subjects.

The Music Circle, which meets on Mondays, began its work on November 8th, when Mr. Eller gave the first of a series of lectures on "Great Symphonies," dealing on that occasion with Mozart's Jupiter Symphony. Miss Catherine Sellers and Mr. Eric Fogg gave the required illustrations on the pianoforte. Miss Sellers is a rising young

pianist. Mr. Fogg is well known in Manchester and his compositions are becoming known in London, where he recently conducted a performance of one of his own works.

On Thursday, November 11th, the first meeting of the Public Speaking Circle was held under the able leadership of Miss Margaret Beck, a lady whose work in connection with elocution and voice production is well known in Manchester.

In addition to these activities a programme of meetings of a more recreational character has been arranged for the first Saturday evening in every month. The season opened on the first Saturday in November with a delightful concert of a miscellaneous nature, arranged by Mr. Ernest R. Short. There was a large and enthusiastic audience who remembered the delightful concert which Mr. Short and his friends had given on a previous occasion.

The subject for the first Saturday in December will be "An Open Debate on the Liquor Problem." Mr. A. B. Windsor, a blind resident of Manchester, will be in the chair, and it is hoped that this will be an encouragement to others to take an active part in the debate.

On Saturday, November 6th, Mr. Ernest R. Short gave a most delightful concert to the blind at the Library, 5 St. John Street. The artists were:—Miss Setti Losli (violin); Miss Edith Williams (piano); Mr. Short ('cello), who gave trios by Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Reissiger; Mrs. Hodgson (vocalist) and Miss Elsie Law (reciter). In addition to playing the 'cello Mr. Short also gave several pleasing songs, very well chosen for the occasion.

Mr. Percy Dean, a blind pianist who is connected with Henshaw's College of Music, played the Chopin Nocturne in E flat major in most excellent style.

OOOO

WE wish to call the attention of our readers to the St. Dunstan's After-Care Shop, which has recently been opened at No. 13 New Oxford Street, not far from the Holborn Restaurant. The articles for sale here include baskets of all shapes and sizes, nets of all kinds, from the net-bag to the garden hammock and the lawn tennis net, and mats of every size and description. Every article on sale at this shop is made by a blinded soldier, and every penny paid over the counter goes without deduction to the maker.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE BLIND



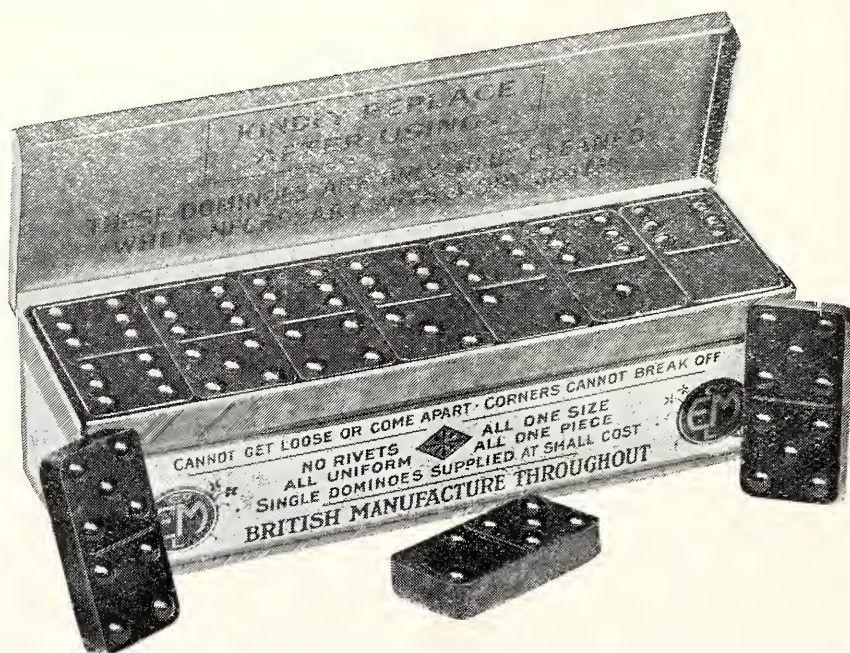
CHRISTMAS is again drawing near, and together with much pleasurable anticipation comes the annual problem "What shall we give to our friends?" In order to give our readers some help on this perplexing subject and to provide them with a guide to the choice of gifts for their blind friends, we have reproduced on the back

page of our cover two photographs on which are to be seen some attractive specimens of games and apparatus of different kinds obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, and suitable for the purses of all would-be purchasers. Draughts, chess, dominoes, Russian Fives and card games of every description are perennially welcome gifts, and on our top

photograph is to be seen a draughtsboard provided with holes, so that it may be used for both draughts and chess. In the latter case the chessmen used are provided with pegs which fit into the holes. The black and white draughtsmen are distinguished by size, and there are double pieces for the kings. On the left will be seen a folding draughtsboard, undrilled and therefore suitable for draughts only. Between these two boards our photo shows the game of Russian Fives. This game, which is for two players, consists

of a wooden board divided into squares, in the middle of each square being a round hole. Each player is provided with a set of pegs, one set of which has round tops, the other square, and furnished with pegs which fit into the holes of the board. The game is a species of noughts and crosses, the idea being for one of the players to get five of his pegs placed in a row. Very popular is the "Compact" Chess and Draughts Outfit, to be seen in the foreground of the picture. This consists of a box made of cardboard;

dotted squares represent the black squares, and the various men of both games are represented by different-shaped pieces. The box is a little over nine inches in length, and very light in weight. Three sets of playing-cards are to be seen—the well-known Cheery Families, with brailled indications for the use



DOMINOES FOR THE BLIND

of blind players—further a pack of Bridge or Whist cards, and a smaller-sized pack of cards suitable for Patience, both of these being provided with Braille numbers and lettering.

On the bottom picture is to be found an interesting assortment of appliances. No. 1 is a cardboard writing-frame known as Holt's Correspondence Tablets, suitable for pen or pencil writing, whilst a smaller tablet can be used under an envelope. No. 2 represents a Braillette board, provided with small metal

PIANO— MUSIC

Echo (French Overture) *J. S. Bach*
 Sonata in C (Augener, No. 7) (1st. movement) *Mozart*
 Mazurka in A minor, Op. 67, No. 4 *Chopin*
 Gavotte in D *H. Balfour Gardiner*

PIANO DUET—

Rendez-Vous (Intermezzo Rococo) *W. Aletter*

PIANO STUDY—

Study in E flat, Op. 168, No. 11 *C. Mayer*

CONCERTINA ALONE—

Overture "Poet and Peasant" ... *Suppé-Shackleton*
 Soldiers' Chorus from "Faust" *Gounod-Shackleton*
 Imitation of Church Bells and Organ *H. Albano*

ORGAN—

Overture "Fingal's Cave" ... *Mendelssohn-Lemare*

* Stereotyped Books.

OOOO

WE regret to announce the death, in his sixty-seventh year, of Mr. William Tibbles, a resident of Hampstead, and collector for the National Institute for the Blind. Handicapped from his birth by total blindness, Mr. Tibbles maintained a ceaseless battle with adverse circumstances, and lived to the end a brave, strenuous, and successful life. We express our sincere sympathy with his widow and sons.

OOOO

A BLIND CHORISTER'S JUBILEE

PROBABLY one of the most unique and worthy records in connection with church choir membership is held by Mr. Arthur Crawley, who, although he has been blind since his boyhood days, has recently completed fifty years' service as a chorister at Boxmoor, in Hertfordshire.

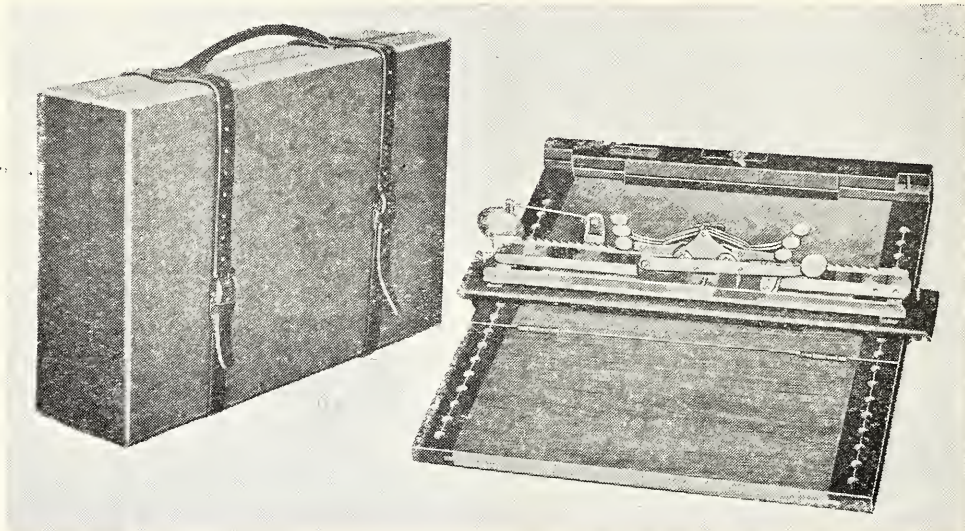
OOOO

MANKIND are always happier for having been happy; so that if you make them happy now, you make them happy twenty years hence, by the memory of it. *Sydney Smith*

STAINSBY WAYNE BRAILLE WRITER

THE Stainsby-Wayne machine, on sale at the National Institute for the Blind, is designed to write Braille on both sides of the paper. It consists of a Braille Board, on which the machine is placed, the keys travelling from right to left as the Braille is written. A small bell gives warning when the end of a line is being reached. The binding margin is made automatically, and the carriage may be released and set at any point on the slide, thereby saving much time. The paper is not rolled, but remains flat. All parts have been strongly made, so that thick paper may be used. The machine will

last many years. The case of a large machine measures 15 in. by 10 in. by 3½ in. The weight of the machine and case is 5½ lbs. Every machine is carefully tested by the Institute before being sold.



STAINSBY-WAYNE BRAILLE WRITER

OOOO

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

THE giving of presents at Christmas may be traced to the custom in Pagan Rome of making gifts on January 1st. The keeping of Christmas was forbidden under the Commonwealth, and December 25th was ordered to be observed as a market day, the eating of plum pudding and mince pie being denounced. At the Restoration the Church of England revived the festival, but the Scottish Presbyterians and English Non-conformists alike refused the observance. The former made New Year's Day their winter holiday, and the latter only in the last half of the nineteenth century gradually returned to the holding of services on Christmas Day.

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON'S VISIT TO CANADA AND THE U.S.A.



SIR ARTHUR PEARSON has just returned from a very interesting journey to Canada and the United States. In Canada he met most of the Canadian blinded soldiers who have been trained at St. Dunstan's and conferred with those responsible for their future welfare. He also met many of the relatives of blinded Canadians who are at present inmates of St. Dunstan's. In company with officials of the recently formed Canadian National Institute for the Blind, of which he is Honorary President, and which is closely affiliated with our National Institute for the Blind, Sir Arthur had a lengthy conference with the principal members of the Federal Government, both in regard to blinded soldiers and the civilian blind community of Canada. As the result of this conference steps are already being taken which will prove of untold importance and benefit to Canadian blind folk. In the United States Sir Arthur paid several visits to Evergreen, Baltimore, the American St. Dunstan's, and saw a great deal of Colonel Bordley, who is responsible for its direction. Colonel Bordley's principal assistant is Mr. C. F. F. Campbell, brother of Mr. Guy Campbell, of the Royal Normal College.

While in Canada, Sir Arthur made thirteen public speeches to audiences numbering from five hundred to five thousand. The meeting which he addressed at Ottawa was presided over by the Duke of Devonshire, the Governor-General of Canada. In the United States he spoke seventeen times. In Washington his audience included several members of the United States Government; at Baltimore he addressed a Meeting of Workers for the Blind who had come from all parts of the United States to meet him; in New York he spoke to a blind audience of about one thousand in number, and in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and New York he addressed public meetings each numbering several thousands.

The Press of Canada and the United States devoted a great deal of space to reports of his speeches and comments upon them. From many hundreds of newspaper clippings which have reached us we print the following selection:—

Baltimore Sun.

LIGHT IN DARKNESS.

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON is one of the blind leaders of the blind who contradicts a Scriptural text. He is leading them not into the ditch but out of it. His life is a sermon on light by one who has been submerged in darkness. And to those who have been suddenly made his comrades by the war, as well as to those deprived of physical sight by other causes, he seems to have been assigned by a sort of providence as a messenger of hope and good cheer. One feels impelled to think of him as especially selected for the work he has

undertaken. Just such a man with just such a message was needed for this time. Looking back, his career of success appears to have been shaped and directed for precisely this end. Only a man who carried sunshine and light in his heart would have been fit for this task. Equipped with the proper character and temperament, and with business ability that insured financial success, he was put in training for his blind leadership just before the war came on. And now this blind man with the torch of hope and courage is furnishing light and spiritual sight to many who would otherwise despair.

It looks as if Sir Arthur had received a commission from the Commander-in-Chief.

Washington Sunday Evening Post.

SIR ARTHUR HONOURED.
 SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR BAKER
 TELLS HIM AMERICA IS GLAD
 TO FOLLOW HIS LEAD.

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON last night received high tribute for his work from Secretary of State for War Baker at a dinner in honour of the distinguished visitor at the Hotel Willard, Washington.

In responding to Sir Arthur's speech, Secretary Baker said :

"Sir Arthur Pearson in making this trip to America is paying the United States an international courtesy. He has given new hope, new power, to the blinded British soldiers. Sir Arthur is the 'Master builder.' We should have gone to him, but he has come to us.

"Sir Arthur has spoken to our blind boys and inspired them by his wonderful example. He encourages us by so cordially commending us in our efforts on behalf of our blind lads who have fought and won.

"Ladies and gentlemen, as I listened to Sir Arthur I lost the sense of England, the United States, France, as separate nationalities, I was impressed with the universality of human effort.

"The war has been a voyage of discovery. Sir Arthur has been one of the ablest pilots. The keynote of his message is normality. He brings us a cure for blindness, both physical and intellectual. Indeed, the whole war has been an attack on blindness.

"Sir Arthur, the United States recognises you as the great leader of those who have lost their sight. We are proud of your leadership, and glad to follow."

*Ottawa Journal.*

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON AND THE BLIND.

ONE of the most thought-compelling addresses which has been heard in Ottawa in recent years was that by Sir Arthur Pearson to the Canadian Club Thursday evening, on the subject of the blind. It was extraordinarily striking, both because of the man who made it and of the nature of the message. The man who made it was

a man who met his own blindness with an invincible courage. His message was an assurance of good to all blind people in the world. Seven thousand of these are in Canada.

St. Dunstan's institutes for the blind in England are an undertaking the principle and management of which belong to Sir Arthur Pearson, who, as all of us know, himself went blind some years ago at the height of a great business career, and then devoted himself to the cause of the blind. He made his guiding aim the idea of enabling the blind to help themselves and each other. In his principle he advanced more resolutely than anyone before him had done in that cause, and in his methods he departed entirely from precedent.

His success has been absolute. It is hardly too much to say that a vast multitude of human beings will be the better, sooner or later, for Sir Arthur Pearson's work. It has already done a great thing, but it is in its infancy. Over six hundred blind soldiers have already left the St. Dunstan's institutes equipped for comfortable, self-respecting, efficient and happy living ; seven hundred more are passing through the institutes, qualifying for the same future ; hundreds more are in military hospitals, who will pass on into the St. Dunstan's regime. Yet all this great thing is but a small thing comparatively to the fact that the principle and methods Sir Arthur Pearson has established, which in a word may be indicated as education or re-education of the blind by the blind for self-satisfying occupation, must spread throughout civilization rapidly. In time the world would have come in any case to all that Sir Arthur Pearson has done, but while the world was coming slowly to it, a hundred thousand blind people might have been more or less lacking in the comparative happiness which is now liable to reach them.

Sir Arthur Pearson tells us that a blind man becomes happy when he attains the pride of creditable achievement—the ability to do good work despite his great handicap. And the illustrations Sir Arthur Pearson gave the Canadian Club were convincing. So Sir Arthur Pearson should be a happy man. For he is doing the greatest good work a human being can do or know, he is helping multitudes of stricken fellow beings up to better things.

New York World.

"DON'T PITY THE BLIND,"
SAYS SIR ARTHUR PEARSON.

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON who was stricken with blindness at the height of his career, and who, after the first horrible struggle with despair, has become one of the most useful and one of the happiest citizens of the world, is devoting his life to work among the blind. His first injunction, the first tenet of the gospel of hope which he brings to blinded men, is that they must not expect, nor be given, pity. To acquaintances, friends and especially to "loving wives and mothers," he presents this plea.

"Don't pity the blind. They don't want your pity, and they can't use it if you give it to them. There is something they do want from you, and something for which they have a right to ask: that is, the same normal spirit of co-operation you are willing to extend to equals everywhere. Co-operate with the blind man, and you'll both be stronger for it; pity him, and you'll both be weaker. Pity exhausts the giver and demoralises the recipient. Very often the worst enemies our blinded soldiers have are their own loving wives and mothers."

To the numerous reporters who interviewed him when he was in New York, Sir Arthur seemed an inspiring example of normality. His interviewers at first could not help considering him "an afflicted man," but after about five minutes he made them change their minds.

"I know," he remarked merrily, "that the average conception of how to treat a blind man is to read the Bible to him and play soft music. I was solemnly informed when I first lost my sight that the joys of the blind are necessarily limited to the pleasures of the table and to contemplation of the rewards that await them in the great hereafter.

"We haven't any such blind men at St. Dunstan's. Not one of our boys is blind enough to look at life as a mere matter of gluttony and idleness. In fact, we make it plain to them when they first come in, that they are not blind—that they are merely normal human beings who have lost one faculty of perception, and will therefore find it necessary to develop some others.

"No normal automobilist breaks down and cries when he finds the usual highway

closed to him. Eliminate the detours, in fact, and you would eliminate a large part of the joys of touring. The healthy tourist, then, is not afraid of the new road; and with just a little co-operation from all concerned he may get as much fun out of the trip as anybody else. But suppose every time the road were closed we thought it necessary to dismantle the car and wait for a lingering death to carry us to the mansions above!"

Was it possible that Sir Arthur took his blindness so lightly? Or was not this the pose of a strong, proud spirit, in order to protect himself from pity? Was he not concealing a tragedy beneath this blithe exterior, whistling, as it were, to keep up his courage, while despair was actually gnawing at his heart?

I, for one, am sure that it was not a pose. Sir Arthur is happy, blithe, merry, interested in every minute of life, and having all sorts of a good time. He was talking specifically about blindness, but he was talking about it in terms of fundamental psychology.

Every concrete observation he made squared itself with principles which are capable of general application.

The central idea of this new philosophy is that happiness does not come from accumulating and acquiring nor from having an easy and comfortable existence. Neither does it come from resignation nor from any self-given order to be "glad." Happiness comes from doing, from exercising one's creative faculties, whatever they may be; and he who finds ample opportunity for this fundamental self-expression needs no one's pity. The only real tragedy of life, says this philosopher, is inhibition; the denial, from whatever source it may come, of the opportunity to go on trying. This inhibition may come from a bad economic derangement, from our failure to co-operate decently with our fellow men, or from the discouragement which is apt to follow when the victims of any particular misfortune are generally assumed to be "down and out." The man who has lost his sight is not essentially different in this respect from the king who has lost his crown, the child who has lost his parents in a crowd. Under ordinary circumstances these will be heart-broken and full of panic. Only with this new revelation of the meaning of life can normality and happiness be regained.

Putting the matter into one pregnant phrase, Sir Arthur said that the most important phase of the work was "defeating the spirit of defeat." Almost every boy who came for help was afflicted with a malady more serious than physical blindness, he said—the malady of discouragement. And the power of evil suggestion was largely responsible.

"Those who take sight for granted do not know how small a factor in life it really is," he said, "and their utter despondency over their loved ones' misfortune contributes fearfully to his own hopelessness. The mother and the sister and the wife have cried their eyes out over him, and it is almost unthinkable that he shall not be overcome by utter despair.

"At St. Dunstan's, however, he is amazed to find us generally happy. None of us pity him; we tell him instead of the fun he is going to have. We tell him his world may be dark to-day, but it will be illumined soon. We've all been through this process of illumination, and he knows that we've been through it. If people with ordinary vision talked to him the way we do it might not make much of an impression, but it means something coming from us.

"Your eyes are of no more use to you?' we say. 'Well, then, we'll show you the way to get along without them. What are your eyes for? Simply to help you to see things, are they not? Look at this chicken, now. You can't see it now. But you will pretty soon. Harry here, can see that it is a white Leghorn pullet, and he hasn't any eyes, either. Harry has been reading a lot about poultry, and he is going to run a chicken farm. He knows it will be a success, because he is already able to see so many things that people with eyes usually miss.'

"He begins to look at his blindness with a different perspective. What can he do? The answer generally depends on what he is most interested in. We ask him what he would like to do, and at St. Dunstan's we know of few things he may not hope to do if he is interested sufficiently."

"And throughout it all," said Sir Arthur, "the blind do literally lead the blind—not, however in the sense that the expression was first used, for neither of them falls into the ditch. The blind at St Dunstan's lead the blind into the great new life, because they know the road, and can see so much better than others can. Our teachers are

blind. And when a blind boy is told what he can do by some other boy who has gone through the experience, his faith is strengthened. And after all it is his resumption of faith in life that counts."



Philadelphia Ledger.

WHO HAVING EYES SEE NOT.

THE visit to this country at this time of a man who boldly states that "from the standpoint of accomplishment, a blind man may be a better man after he has lost the use of his eyes than he was before," should have a peculiar interest.

Sir Arthur Pearson, the director of St. Dunstan's, London, England, is a fascinating figure. He is a man who has made one of the most unfortunate handicaps known to human experience the means of bringing hope and salvation to hundreds of others similarly afflicted. "There are no blind men," is the standpoint from which this courageous Samson regards his rehabilitative work. His aim has been to convince the world that, so far as happiness is concerned, the blind man may visualize the beautiful with the eye of his mentality, and that efficiency in any direction may be attained through industry and application, in spite of the fact that the eyes are no longer usable instruments. The success with which he has made this idea practical is proven in great numbers of instances of success attained by blind men who have graduated from courses of instruction at St. Dunstan's. Too much stress can scarcely be laid upon this important work. Neither can the fact be over-emphasized that the opportunity to dominate the handicap of blindness by increased efficiency should be made available to every sightless human being. The imagination is an instrument, which, rightly exercised, has the value of a thousand eyes. Hands are instruments to be used at the dictation of the mind, not of a merely physical sense of sight. The time has gone by when this handicap need be regarded as a deformity or the victim of it a burden to society. The disability of one faculty is merely the opportunity for developing and perfecting others. Perhaps, indeed, the time will come when we shall all realise that the value of the physical sense of sight has been very much over-rated. The man who cannot see through his eyes may see all the

more clearly through other instruments. The very absence of the distraction necessarily created by the environment which is recognized through the sight may mean an opportunity to develop latent abilities and unrealised talents. Sir Arthur Pearson stands out as a man who is wonderfully and rarely successful. Much of his success is in spite of his handicap—but some of it may be because of that same handicap.

❖ ❖

Wilmington Star.

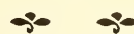
SIR ARTHUR PEARSON'S BOYS

THE news that at least 7,000 of our allied veterans are totally blind, while many more may lose their sight, is lightened greatly by the message which Sir Arthur Pearson, superintendent of the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel in London, brings us. This famous and lovable man, himself blind, says of the graduates of that institution: "Most of these boys are doing better work, living a fuller life and getting bigger incomes than they received before they went to war." He is able to demonstrate the truth of his cheerful words. No philosophy of chimney corner resignation is Sir Arthur's. He leaves pity for others to offer, and preaches instead the gospel of useful work.

But though he can teach the soldiers a trade and enable them to snap their fingers at pensions, it must be something in the boys themselves that has made it possible to find a life in darkness "fuller" than that they led before their great sacrifice. Is this not their newly gained strength, their splendid self-mastery, their hourly contention with an obstacle which most of us hardly dare to think of as confronting us? At Sir Arthur's school they are winning a double education such as no other university could give: in craftsmanship and in character. Thrown back upon stark courage as their one resource, at the outset of their careers, they promptly began a new and limited life, to make it in time fuller than the old. Their success is their own and their blind leader's—not owed to the favouritism of fortune. Already they are farther along, in real education, than most unhandicapped people will ever get.

It is good to know that blindness no longer holds its awful finality, but any

trouble met in the high-hearted way of Sir Arthur Pearson, would be transformed.



Evening Telegram, Toronto.

"GOD NEVER SHUTS DOOR,"

SAYS SIR ARTHUR,

"WITHOUT OPENING WINDOW."

ST. DUNSTAN'S GRADUATES FEAST "OLD CHIEF" AT UNIQUE VICTORY DINNER.

THEY toasted their Alma Mater, St. Dunstan's, and its head, last night. They toasted it lovingly and they toasted it royally. It was truly a Victory banquet. Twenty-seven blinded soldiers who had bought Victory with a fearful price celebrated a double victory. They celebrated a mastery of the Hun and of themselves. Fate had flung them into utter darkness, and they had faced her blithely with a light on every countenance. So with their "Old Chief," who had shown them the light, they feasted last night.

Not since hundreds of exquisite white orchids crowned the huge supper table for the Yacht Club's regal welcome for a royal duke has there been a more beautiful banqueting table than that spread last night at Pearson Hall.

Soft green curtains fell from the great windows of the old mansion's dining-room, where many a famous guest has been entertained. Lovely primroses and cyclamen decked the fireplace, and the light of many candles was reflected in the gleaming mahogany walls of the panelled room. Against this delightful frame was a vision of flowers and lights. Pale yellow bowls filled with the red roses of old England and white narcissi were the centres of each table of a hollow square. Between them were massed mauve primroses and cyclamen that looked like hundreds of delicate orchids. Bowls of vivid fruit and rich silver and glass bonbonnières and two great silver candelabra radiated still more colour and light. Many of the men were in khaki, and the four V.A.D.'s, who acted as waitresses, lent still another picturesque touch.

Corporal Viets, the first Canadian graduate of St. Dunstan's, was chairman. To his right was Sir Arthur Pearson, to his left Mr. L. M. Wood, President of Canada's National Institute, which is trying to carry

out St. Dunstan's ideals here. Next to him sat Lieut.-Col. Perrett, who had come from Regina for the re-union. Across from the evening's guest of honour, with Dr. Dickson, sat Mr. W. K. George, with whom Sir Arthur stayed while in Toronto; he, with Mr. Wood and Pearson Hall's secretary, Mr. Rupert, were the only sighted guests. But only a close observer would have known it.

Deftly did the V.A.D.'s serve the banquet, and after coffee and cigarettes, Mr. Viets rose to toast "The King." Then he said: "We are here to do honour to our 'Old Chief,'" and a chorus of affectionate "Hear, hears," rang out.

Then the very air tingled with emotion. Sir Arthur will have many a tumultuous greeting on this side of the water, but never can last night's wonderful scene be equalled. As Mr. Viets said:—

"No mere words could voice our feelings to-night. All would fall short. We welcome to-night not so much the man of title, the friend of many distinguished people, but our old friend, the friend of the blind soldiers, the man with the big heart, the man who had the courage of his convictions to tackle this big proposition of training the blind soldiers, the man who came to us in our hour of gloom and pointed the way to the light."

But it was Mr. William Dies, who had lost his right hand as well as his sight, that Mr. Viets called on to propose the toast to St. Dunstan's and its head. He paid a tender tribute to both, and declared that any courage or anything he had he had got through St. Dunstan's.

Not only did the boys rise with their glasses high, but Comrade Rawlinson called for three good Canadian cheers, and "He's a jolly good fellow" rang out.

Then came words from Sir Arthur that made an outsider feel an intruder on almost sacred ground. He called on his pals, old and new, and spoke of his gratitude to them, for he had learned as much from them as he had given. He declared he was more than proud and happy to have lived with "you fellows and come very close to you." Now that there were so many inmates of St. Dunstan's, he was not able to see so much of the boys individually as he had the first ones. But he was proud that the lines on which St. Dunstan's had started had been enlarged: gardens had now become buildings,

and bungalows and a private hospital had been added.

"Only 21 disorderlies out of 1,350 who had passed through was St. Dunstan's record. There had never been established any rigid discipline there, the honour of St. Dunstan's is in the keeping of its men," said Sir Arthur, who declared he was extraordinarily proud of his Canadians.

"There are a first-rate lot of fellows going to join you," said he, "and I congratulate you upon your place. Mr. Wood has been to St. Dunstan's, and has caught the feeling of it. I am more than delighted to see the charming way in which all the appointments here have been carried out. Here are beautiful furnishings and flowers, just as you found them at St. Dunstan's. The old idea that whitewashed walls and deal furniture was all the blind needed is done. We know we can appreciate beautiful surroundings as keenly as other people, in fact, I believe, a little more so. You must take particular care never to lose that feeling of seeing. Never sit about in the dark. Remember, we see with our brains. Eyes are just the instruments that convey the impression to our brains. Some folks never start to see until they lose their eyes.

"You want intelligent companionship. You want to use your own head. Loss of sight is after all only loss of sight. But what we lose in one way we gain in another. It's a great, great gain. Remember, 'God never shuts the door without opening a window.' Blindness brings some disabilities, some minor inconveniences, but it also brings an improvement in one's mentality and a general brightening of the faculties. The ordinary human being takes himself as he finds himself. But when you lose your eyes you've got to take yourself seriously, you've got to think, think, think. Exercise improves the brain as much as it does the muscles. Necessity for concentration improves one's mentality. Balancing everything, I believe that you gain more than you lose."

Sir Arthur and his audience together laughed at the old idea that a blind person was a semi-demi idiot, and St. Dunstan's chief impressed it upon his hearers that their success in overcoming all obstacles would mean so much to the blind generally. He warned them about their dread of going to new places. He had had this himself once,

but had gotten over it since he had made a break, and advised them to do likewise.

In closing, Sir Arthur thanked them for the charming welcome, and declared he would thrust himself upon them as often as he could do so. He even hinted he might make it a yearly visit.

Not only did last night's gathering pay tribute to St. Dunstan's, but to Lt.-Col. Perrett was given a toast to propose to Dr. Dickson, whose inspiration had brought them together here. He also paid tribute to Mr. L. M. Wood. Dr. Dickson voiced his delight in the opening of Pearson Hall, which above all else would provide a home life.

To Mr. McDougall was given a toast to propose to the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, and with it was coupled the name of Captain Baker, who responded. He spoke of the help that Dr. Dickson and Mr. C. S. Swift had been, and hoped that Sir Arthur's visit would mean fresh inspiration and yet fuller co-operation.

"We have but carried our torches from St. Dunstan's, where they were lit," concluded Captain Baker.

After the third toast the guests adjourned to the comfortable lounge, where Mr. Cowan proposed the final toast to the National Institute, to which Mr. L. M. Wood responded.

On behalf of the boys Mr. Viets presented Sir Arthur with a Canadian-made plaid travelling rug, and they were delighted with still more happy words from their old chief.



New York Survey.

A BLIND LEADER OF THE BLIND.

THE ship that brought Sir Arthur Pearson to these shores carried a precious cargo of hope, not only for the American soldiers and sailors blinded in the war but for all the blind of this and coming generations. For his methods of making the blinded soldiers of the British Empire happy, self-reliant, productive, forward-looking citizens have proved themselves so completely, that whatever there remains of the old-fashioned pitying, condescendnig, patronizing attitude toward those without eye-sight stands utterly condemned.

Sir Arthur, himself blinded not many years ago, has completely reshaped his own life and has, during the war, made one of the biggest contributions to English war services by his work at St. Dunstan's, a large house with sixteen acres of ground in Regent's Park, London, lent him by Otto Kahn, the New York banker, for the restoration of blinded soldiers to lives of usefulness. At a dinner given in his honour in New York the other day, he gave a description of the methods used in that process, and told story after story of the remarkable careers begun in the classrooms and workshops of his institution.

He mentioned a young officer, blinded in the war, who is now in charge of the after-care department—"We don't just shake a fellow by the hand when he is leaving and say 'Good-bye, old chap, good luck to you,'"—and who, with thirteen people under him, conducts the complicated operations necessary to ensure that the men will be well provided for. He told of another, attached to a firm of hot-water engineers who, since his blindness, has advanced from one position to another and now runs through plans, makes specifications for contracts and deals with wholesalers. Then there is the blinded barber who, with an old-fashioned open razor, is shaving more people a day now than he did before he was called to the colours. And so through quite a list of men who not only have "made good" but who, through the additional vocational training afforded them, have greatly improved their earning power, even doubled and trebled it.

At the bottom of Sir Arthur's method is the idea that the consciousness of helplessness must be ruthlessly eradicated, the sooner after blindness occurs the better. His success has been due in part to the fact that a large proportion of his cases have come to him within a few days after the accident, so that the usual discouragement from wrong outside influences was more or less avoided. The word "afflicted" is "not permitted within two miles of St. Dunstan's." "If you tell a man he is afflicted, he will become so and adopt the proper physical attitude to suit the word. We have nothing to do with it, and we have also nothing to do with that beautiful Christian virtue which most people think is an admirable solace for the blind man—patient resignation. A fighting, kicking spirit is what is wanted."

Sir Arthur has already visited a number of cities and institutions in this country to preach his gospel. In Canada, an association of men blinded in the war has been formed, and in Toronto a place was dedicated a few weeks ago as a headquarters for them. Here the chief of St. Dunstan's, after whom both association and hall were named, was entertained at dinner by twenty-seven sightless hosts, all of whom were doing well in their different ways of life, all of whom were cheery and confident. Thinking of them that night as the train carried him to another destination, he composed the following lines:—

THE BLINDED SOLDIER.

By Sir Arthur Pearson.

"WHO goes there?" cried the sentry,
The sentry who stood at the door.
"A wounded Canadian soldier—
Wounded and something more."
Back came the voice of the sentry,
Clear as a silver bell,
"Pass, wounded Canadian soldier,
Pass—All's Well."

"What do you mean?" growled the soldier,
"How can it all be well
With me who have lost my eyes,
Who am suffering the torments of Hell?"
He cursed the German bullet
Which had robbed him of his sight.
Hopeless, defiant, helpless,
Afraid of eternal night.

Scarcely a twelvemonth later
There came to the self-same door
That soldier who had been wounded—
Wounded and something more.
Confident and resolute,
Cheery, alert and bright,
Just a normal human being,
Doing without his sight.
"Who goes there?" cried the sentry,
The sentry performing his round;
"A happy Canadian soldier,
Competent, homeward bound."
Quick came the voice of the sentry,
Clear as a silver bell—
"Pass competent, happy Canadian,
Pass, All's well."

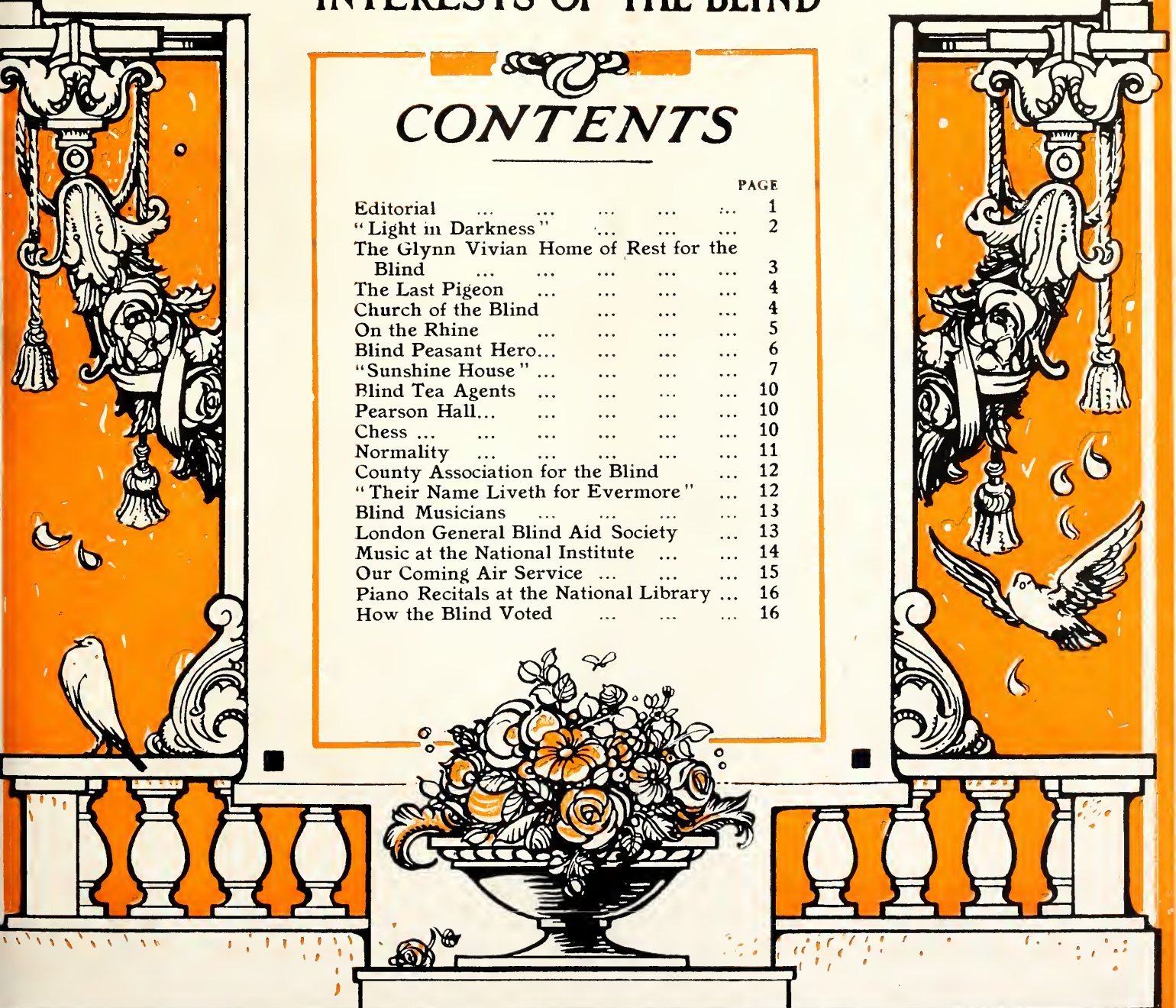


THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	1
"Light in Darkness"	2
The Glynn Vivian Home of Rest for the Blind	3
The Last Pigeon	4
Church of the Blind	4
On the Rhine	5
Blind Peasant Hero... ..	6
"Sunshine House"	7
Blind Tea Agents	10
Pearson Hall... ..	10
Chess	10
Normality	11
County Association for the Blind	12
"Their Name Liveth for Evermore"	12
Blind Musicians	13
London General Blind Aid Society	13
Music at the National Institute	14
Our Coming Air Service	15
Piano Recitals at the National Library	16
How the Blind Voted	16



**FICTION**

Avenger of the Blood *H. C. Rowland*
 Lord Richard in the Pantry, 3 vols. ...*M. Swayne*
 John Charity, 5 vols. *H. A. Vachell*
 Lady Anne's Trustee *F. Warden*
 *Marriage, 6 vols. *H. G. Wells*
 The Daisy Chain, 14 vols. *C. M. Yonge*
 The Other Sara, 3 vols. *Curtis Yorke*

Tennyson as a Religious Teacher, 3 vols.
C. F. G. Masterman
 Life in the Word *P. Mauro*
 In the Grip of the Nyika, 3 vols.
Lt.-Col. J. H. Patterson
 Personal Life of the Clergy, 2 vols.
A. W. Robinson
 St. Ignatius Loyola, 4 vols. *F. Thompson*
 Selections from "Complete Etiquette for Ladies
 and Gentlemen"
 Decline and Fall of Napoleon, 2 vols.
Viscount Wolseley
 Pathology and Treatments

Gospel Manuscripts *H. P. Holah*
 Illustrious Prince, 3 vols. *E. P. Oppenheim*

Tutor—Instructions for the Concertina *J. Warren*

A list of new Braille books, published by the National Institute for the Blind, is issued each month with the BEACON, as an inset. The above list must not be confused with this catalogue.



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	1
"Light in Darkness"	2
The Best Howlers	2
Glasgow Asylum for the Blind	3
Blind Girl's Success	4
Institutions for the Blind	4
Formation of Local Advisory Committees	5
College for the Blind	6
An Island Night's Pilgrimage	7
Further Development of the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women	9
Mount Lavinia School for Deaf and Blind	10
The Stage Ball	11
Sydney Industrial Blind Institution	12
National Institute for the Blind Massage Branch	13
Mr. Speaker's Perquisites	13
The Eagle's Ancestor	13
Employment Bureau	14
Rhythm and Rhythmic Expression	15
Obituary	16



NEW BRAILLE BOOKS

WITH the beginning of May it was found necessary to cut down the size of Braille magazines owing to the increasing shortage of paper and more stringent Government restrictions. It is refreshing, however, to realise that the range of Braille literature is now wonderfully extensive, that thanks to the work being done by the National Library, the Braille book-lover in this country is now in a position to enjoy a range of reading that is both varied and extensive. We propose to publish on this page every month a list—which may be found useful as a reference—of recent additions to the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton St., Westminster, S.W.1. The following list is for December, 1918:—

FICTION

A CASE OF CONSCIENCE	(Anon.)
YOUNG APRIL, 5 vols.....	A. & E. Castle
BACHELORS, 3 vols.....	C. Eddy
BETWEEN TWO THIEVES, 13 vols.	"Richard Dehan"
PURSUIT OF MR. FAVIEL, 4 vols.	R. E. Vermède
A MORAL EXIGENCY	M. E. Wilkins

MISCELLANEOUS

SENECA, A SEEKER AFTER GOD, 2 vols.	(Anon.)
WINTER GARLAND.....	(Anon.)
ESPECIALLY WILLIAM.....	(Anon.)
ALONE WITH GOD	(Anon.)
INSECTS	(Anon.)
CHILD OF THE DAWN, 3 vols.	A. C. Benson
DAWN PATROL.....	B. Bewsher
COTTER'S SATURDAY NIGHT.....	R. Burns
HEAVEN AND EARTH	} 2 vols. Lord Byron
MANFRED	
CAIN	
HUNTING OF THE SNARK	Lewis Carroll
AMERICA AT WORK, 2 vols.	J. F. Fraser
CHAUCEER AND HIS TIMES, 3 vols.	G. E. Hadow
DESPATCHES FROM THE DARDANELLES, 3 vols.	Ian Hamilton
CHRISTIANITY AND ROMAN GOVERNMENT, 3 vols.....	E. G. Hardy
BIBLE TEACHINGS IN NATURE, 5 vols.....	H. Macmillan
LECTURES ON THE APOCALYPSE, 4 vols.	W. Milligan
LILY OF TIFLIS.....	Rev. J. Mason Neale
EXILES OF THE CEBENNA, 2 vols.	Rev. J. Mason Neale
LOVE IN WAR TIME	"Sportsman"
MATRICULATION SELECTIONS FROM LATIN AUTHORS, 8 vols.	A. F. Watt and B. J. Hayes

NOTE.—In addition to the above the Braille Library of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has been transferred to this Library.

A list of new Braille books, published by the National Institute for the Blind, is issued each month with the BEACON, as an inset. The above list must not be confused with this catalogue.



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	1
Blind War Workers	2
Sir Arthur Pearson in America	2
The Status of Trade Instructors	3
Dover Patrol Memorial	5
Music at the National Institute	6
Blind Tea Agents	6
Spelling Reform	7
"Light in Darkness"	8
Religious Instruction in Schools for the Blind	9
National Library for the Blind	9
Massage for the Blind	10
North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind	11
Obituary	12
Esperanto: A Second Language for All	13
Country Home Change for the Blind	15
Care of Blind in Glasgow and West of Scotland	16
Proposed Hostel for the Blind	16



A list of new Braille books, published by the National Institute for the Blind, is issued each month with the BEACON, as an inset. The above list must not be confused with this catalogue.



THE BEACON

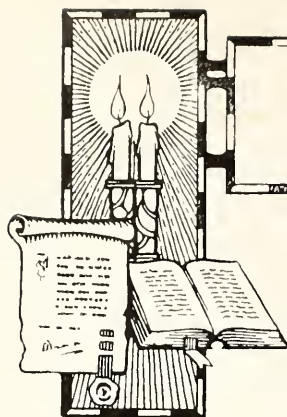
A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	1
The Tasmanian Society for Blind, Deaf, and Dumb	2
A Blind Man's Soliloquy on the Four Seasons	2
The Establishment of Local Advisory Committees	3
Bradford Institution for the Blind	4
Mr. Hermann Spencer	5
The Art of Slipper-Making	7
Indian Association of Workers for the Blind	8
Music at the National Institute	8
National Institute Employment Bureau	9
Memorandum on Burmese and Embossed Script	10
You Will Come	12
Teaching Blind Children in Burma	13
The Torquay Home Teaching Society	14
The Norwich Blind Asylum	15
Election Slogans	16





NEW BRAILLE BOOKS

WITH the beginning of May it was found necessary to cut down the size of Braille magazines owing to the increasing shortage of paper and more stringent Government restrictions. It is refreshing, however, to realise that the range of Braille literature is now wonderfully extensive, that thanks to the work being done by the National Library, the Braille book-lover in this country is now in a position to enjoy a range of reading that is both varied and extensive. We propose to publish on this page every month a list—which may be found useful as a reference—of recent additions to the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton St., Westminster, S.W.1. The following list is for February, 1919:—

FICTION

- | | |
|--|---|
| Facts and Fancies (various authors) .....(Anon.) | Two on a Tower, 4 vols. ....T. Hardy |
| Naval Intelligence, 3 vols.....(Anon.) | Spell of Egypt, 2 vols. ....R. Hichens |
| *The Long Trick, 2 vols. ...."Bartimeus" | Sea Stories W. W. Jacobs |
| Grapes of Wrath, 3 vols. ....Boyd Cable | A Secret Service.....Le Queux |
| *The Last Bow, 3 vols. ....Sir A. Conan Doyle | One of our Conquerors, 8 vols.....G. Meredith |

MISCELLANEOUS

- | | |
|--|--|
| Through Russian Eyes, and other Articles (Anon.) | Adventures in Friendship, 2 vols....David Grayson |
| War and Public Right (from the <i>Round Table</i>) | Escape from Turkey in Asia.....Capt. E. H. Keeling |
| (Anon.) | Garden of Kashmir "Odysseus" |
| Black Hole of the Desert (Hardships in the Libyan Desert) "A Yeoman Signaller" | Serbia to Kut.....Canon J. T. Parfit |
| Historic Thames, 3 vols. ....Hilaire Belloc | Memories of Forty Years, 5 vols. |
| Vision of Judgment .....Lord Byron | C. Princess Radziwill |
| Victorian Age in Literature 2 vols. G. K. Chesterton | A Defence of Poetry .....P. B. Shelley |
| How England saved Europe, 1793-1815, 16 vols. | An Apologie for Poetry (Ed. by E. S. Shuckburgh) |
| W. H. Fitchett | 5 vols. ....Sir P. Sidney |
| Two Noble Kinsmen .....J. Fletcher | Alexander the Great: the merging of East and West in Universal History.....B. J. Wheeler |

FOREIGN

- Ornithes (Birds)Aristophanes

MUSIC

- | | |
|---|--|
| PIANO—Two Bourees in B min. from Suite Francaise No. 3 .....J. S. Bach | CHURCH—Be Glad Then Ye Children of Zion |
| Study in A flat Op. 81, No. 6.....T. Kullak | A. Hollins |
| Sonata in E flat, first movement .....J. Haydn | An Anglican Folk Mass .....M. Shaw |
| Rustic Song .....W. Y. Hurlstone | Benedicite in A .....J. H. Maunders |
| Le Jeune Pianiste, No. 2 Menuetto .....Von Wilm | Benedicite in E flat .....G. J. Bennett |
| The Fairies' Dream .....E. A. Oldham | Benedicite in G ... E. C. Winchester |
| | Story of the Passion.....Rev. J. H. Matthews |
| VOCAL EXERCISES—Progressive Studies (Medium Voice). Part 1, Sustained Singing G. Henschel | In Jewry Is God Known (General) |
| | Clarke-Whitfield |
| | Now Is Christ Risen (Easter).....G. B. Allen |

* Stereotyped Books

A list of new Braille books, published by the National Institute for the Blind, is issued each month with the BEACON, as an inset. The above list must not be confused with this catalogue.



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	1
Optimism of the Blind	2
The Blind Relief and Visiting Society ...	2
The National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness	3
Leicester Institution for the Blind	4
Deaf-Blind Blessing Society	4
Moving Pictures and the Eyes	5
Milton on his Blindness	6
Blind Social Aid Society and Literary Union	7
The Blind of Oldham	7
Oxford Society for the Blind	8
Scheme for Destitute Blind	9
Obituary	9
Lafcadio Hearn: An Appreciation	10
Battle Trophies	12
Air Transport	13
Music at the National Institute	14
East Yorkshire Conference	15
Care of the Blind	16





MISCELLANEOUS

Two Noble Kinsmen*J. Fletcher*
 Life and Letters of John Keats, 5 vols.*Lord Houghton*
 Ballads and Poems of Tragic Life.....*G. Meredith*
 To Ruhleben and Back, 3 vols.*G. Pike*
 Defence of Poetry*P. B. Shelley*

FICTION

GRADE III.—

Little White Bird, 2 vols.....*Sir J. M. Barrie*

Tale of the Great (Indian) Mutiny, 3 vols.
W. H. Fitchett

Adventure of Death*R. MacKenna*

FOREIGN—

La Chastelaine de Vergy.*Champion*

Les dimanches d'un Bourgeois de Paris, 2 vols.
G. de Maupassant

MUSIC

ORGAN—

Book 3. Berceuse*L. Schytte*
Andante from Op. 12.....*F. Schubert*
Romance from Op. 6*M. Hauptmann*
Andante from Op. 47*Beethoven*
Aria from Symphony in D*J. Haydn*
Book 4. Ave Maria*F. Schubert*
Consolation*F. Liszt*
Passover Table Hymn..... *Hebrew Melody*
Resignation*Mendelssohn*
Andante from Sonata No. 4*Weber*

PIANO—

Three-Fours (Valse-Suite) *Coleridge-Taylor*
STUDIES—
Sight-Reading Exercises (Book 1). *C. Schafer*

A list of new Braille books, published by the National Institute for the Blind, is issued each month with *The Beacon*, as an inset. The above list must not be confused with this catalogue.



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	1
Some Animals that are Blind	3
"Victory Over Blindness"	4
Broken in the War	5
Canadian National Institute for the Blind	7
Two Examples of Victory Over Blindness	8
Clifton Home for Blind Women	9
The Bristol Blind	9
A New Home for Women Workers	10
Her Return	10
Flower Gardens for the Blind	11
Legé Braille Type	12
National Library for the Blind	13
Obituary	13
Music at the National Institute	14
News Items	15
Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind	16

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications.

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page. The list of new books added to the National Library will be found on page 16.

FICTION.

				s.	d.
3799	Little Dorrit (Charles Dickens)	Vol.	1	2	6
3800	"	"	"	2	2 6
3801	"	"	"	3	2 6
3802	"	"	"	4	2 6
3803	"	"	"	5	2 6
3804	"	"	"	6	2 6
3805	"	"	"	7	2 6
3806	"	"	"	8	2 6
3807	"	"	"	9	2 6
3808	"	"	"	10	2 6
3809	"	"	"	11	2 6
3810	"	"	"	12	2 6

SCIENCE.

3787	Physics and Politics (Bagehot)...	Vol.	1	2	6
3788	"	"	"	2	2 6

HISTORICAL.

3789	History of the Church of England				
	(Wakeman)...	Vol.	1	2	6
3790	Ditto ditto ditto	"	2	2	6
3791	"	"	3	2	6
3792	"	"	4	2	6
3793	"	"	5	2	6
3794	"	"	6	2	6
3795	"	"	7	—	

NATURAL HISTORY.

3796	Tommy Smith's Other Animals				
	(Selous)...	Vol.	1	2	6
3797	Ditto ditto ditto	"	2	2	6

EDUCATIONAL.

3798	How to Learn to Read (Interlined) ...	0	6
------	---------------------------------------	---	---

MUSIC.

ORGAN—

3811	Grand Fantasia in E Minor (The Storm)				
	by J. Lemmens (Bar by Bar) ...	0	6		

Music—continued.

				s.	d.
3812	"Second Sonata" by Mendelssohn (Bar by Bar) ...	...	...	0	6
3813	Andante (from the Violin Concerto, Mendelssohn) (Bar by Bar) arranged by Cruickshank ...	...	...	0	3

PIANO—

3814	Réverie d'Amour, by Hollins (Bar by Bar) ...	...	...	0	4
3815	T. C. L. Examination Pieces, Intermediate Division, Group 35 (Bar by Bar) ...	...	...	0	4
3816	T. C. L. Examination Pieces, Intermediate Division, Group 36 (Bar by Bar) ...	...	...	0	4
3817	"Beatrice di Tenda" (Donizetti) by Dorn (Bar by Bar) ...	...	...	0	4
3818	"Dreaming," Waltz, by Joyce (Bar by Bar) ...	...	...	0	3

SONGS—

3819	Seven Elizabethan Lyrics, by Quilter, (Low Voice : Compass, B flat to F' Op. 12 sharp) ...	...	...	1	0
3820	Sink, Red Sun, by del Riego (D : Compass, A to F') ...	...	...	0	4
3821	The Message, by Blumenthal, (D : Compass, B to F') ...	...	...	0	4
3822	The Blackbird, by Elliott (E flat : Compass, C to A') ...	...	...	0	3
3823	Sing, Joyous Bird, by Phillips (C : Compass, D to G') ...	...	...	0	3
3824	A Chip of the Old Block, by Squire (B flat : Compass, B to D') ...	...	...	0	4
3825	When the Great Red Dawn is Shining, by Sharpe (A flat : Compass, E to E') ...	...	...	0	3
3826	Let the Great Big World Keep Turning, by Ayer (E flat : Compass, D to F') ...	...	...	0	3
3827	Welcome Spring (Four-Part Song) ; 1, "Welcome, Thrice welcome" ; 2, "How sweet to wander 'neath the trees" (Schubert) ...	...	...	0	5



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	1
Artificial Lighting and the Eyesight	3
Music at the National Institute	4
Adversity and Shakespeare	5
Workshop for Blind Women	6
Sheffield Institution for the Blind	6
The Life Story of Valentin Haüy	7
South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb	8
"The Sun Worshipper"	9
Successful Candidates	10
Royal Midland Institution for the Blind..	10
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind	11
Royal Victoria School for the Blind	12
Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind	12
The Psychology of Blindness	13
Guides for the Deaf Blind	14
Seeing Without Eyes!	15
Tribute to St. Dunstan's from Canada	16
Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind	16

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications.

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page. The list of new books added to the National Library will be found on page 16.

TRAVEL.

				s.	d.
3828	A Hunter's Wanderings in South Africa (Selous) ...	Vol. 1 ...	2	6	
3829	Ditto ditto ditto ..	2 ...	2	6	
3830	" " " " 3 ...		2	6	
3831	" " " " 4 ...		2	6	
3832	" " " " 5 ...		2	6	

POETRY.

3833	Twenty Selected Poems (Various.)	Pocket	0	5	
------	----------------------------------	--------	---	---	--

MUSIC.

ORGAN—

3834	"Twenty-Four Pieces for Organ or Harmonium," Book II, by Louis Vierne (Bar by Bar) ...	2	0	
3835	"Third Sonata," by Mendelssohn (Bar by Bar) ...	0	6	
3836	"Choral No. 3 in A minor," by César Franck (Bar by Bar) ...	0	4	

PIANO—

3837	"New England Idyls," by MacDowell, Op. 62 (Bar by Bar) ...	1	6	
3838	"Wedding Day," by Grieg, Op. 65, No. 6. (Bar by Bar) ...	0	4	
3839	"Lucia di Lammermoor" ("Donizetti") by Dorn (Bar by Bar)...	0	4	
3840	"Un Ballo in Maschera" (Verdi) by Dorn (Bar by Bar) ...	0	4	

Music—continued.

s. d.

VIOLIN—

3841	"No 2 of Six Sonatas" (Solo) by Bach...	0	6	
3842	"Berceuse" (with Piano Accompaniment) by Järnefelt ...	0	3	

CHURCH—

3843	Hymn Tunes, Hymnal Companion (Vertical Score) ...	Vol. 1 ...	2	6
3844	Ditto ditto ditto ..	2 ...	2	6
3845	" " " " 3 ...		2	6
3846	Index to Hymns and Tunes ...		2	6
3847	"Communion Service in F" by Maunder (Vertical Score) ...		0	9
3848	"Holiest, Breathe an Evening Blessing" (Motett for Male Voices, Clapisson) by Collard (Open and Vertical Score)		0	5

SONGS—

3849	"The City of Light," by S. Adams (D: Compass, C to E') ..	0	4	
3850	"God's Garden" (with Organ or Harmonium Accompaniment) by Lambert (A flat: Compass, E to F') ...	0	3	
3851	"Beyond" (with Violin Obbligato), by St. Quentin (D: Compass, B, to E') ...	0	4	
3852	"Calendar of Song," by Phillips (Compass, D to G') ...	0	6	
3853	"Golden Bird," by Haydn Wood (G: Compass, D to G') ...	0	3	
3854	"The Bells shall Ring Them Home," by Kenny (D: Compass, D to E') ...	0	3	



It has been found necessary to revise certain of the postage rates for Braille Magazines and Papers issued by the National Institute for the Blind. These revisions will be notified in next month's number of *The Beacon*.



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	1
Newcastle Musical Tournament	2
The Blind and the State	3
Association for Blind, Deaf, and Crippled Children	4
The Blind Ringer of Dumfries	5
Care of the Blind	7
Music at the National Institute	7
Colour-Blindness	8
"The Blind"	9
Pillow-Lace Making	9
A Remarkable Editor	10
Wolverhampton Society for the Blind	11
Blind Man's Invention	11
The Blind Child and Its Development	12
Presentation to Mr. Mullins	13
Officers' Pensions	14
Canadian National Institute for the Blind	15
Bureau of Child Hygiene	15
Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind	16

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications.

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page. The list of new books added to the National Library will be found on page 16.

LETTERPRESS.

	s.	d.
3855 Victory Over Blindness (Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E.)	7	0

MISCELLANEOUS.

3856 Clogging for the Blind (Siddall) (Interpoint)	0	6
---	---	---

FICTION.

3857 A Kiss from France (Neil Lyons) (Interpoint)	2	6
3858 Three Stories from the Green Flag (Doyle) (Interpoint)	2	6

SCIENCE.

3859 Stellar Movements and the Structure of the Heavens (Eddington) Vol. 1 ...	2	6
3860 Ditto ditto ditto „ 2 ...	2	6
3861 „ „ „ „ 3 ...	2	6
3862 „ „ „ „ 4 ...	2	6

MASSAGE.

3863 Treatment of Joint and Muscle Injuries (Bristow) (Pocket)	0	6
---	---	---

ESSAYS AND BELLES LETTRES.

3864 Wild Life in a Southern County (Jeffries) (Interpoint) ... Vol. 1 ...	2	6
3865 Ditto ditto ditto „ 2 ...	2	6
3866 „ „ „ „ 3 ...	2	6

MUSIC.

ORGAN—

3867 "The Village Organist," Book 8 (a Series of Pieces for Church and General Use), edited by J. Stainer and F. Cunningham Woods (Bar by Bar)	0	9
3868 "Let us break their bonds" (The Messiah), arranged by Smart (Bar by Bar)	0	3

Music—continued.

PIANO—

	s.	d.
3869 "Sonata No. 5," by Beethoven, Op. 10, No. 1 (Bar by Bar)	1	0
3870 "Lyric Pieces," by Grieg, Op. 47, Book 4 (Bar by Bar)	0	6
3871 "Reverie in C," by Watson (Bar by Bar)	0	3
3872 "Le Domino Noir" (D'Auber) by Dorn (Bar by Bar)	0	4
3873 "I Montecchi ed I Capuletti" (Bellini) by Dorn (Bar by Bar)	0	4
3874 "Anna Bolena" (Donizetti) by Dorn (Bar by Bar)	0	3

CHURCH—

3875 "Evening Service in A flat," by Harwood (Vertical Score)	0	6
3876 "Hear my prayer" (Motett for Soprano Solo and Chorus) by Mendelssohn ...	0	9

SONGS—

3877 Prologue, from "Pagliacci," by Leoncavallo (B flat: Compass, A, to E' ...	0	6
3878 "Four by the clock," by Mallinson (G flat: Compass, D to F')	0	3
3879 "The Roving Gipsies," by Marks (A minor Compass, D to F' sharp) ...	0	4
3880 "The Garden of Sleep," by Isidore de Lara (A flat: Compass, C flat to E') ...	0	3
3881 "The Bells Shall Ring Them Home," by Oke (C: Compass, C to D')	0	3
3882 "Hope" (with Violin Obbligato) by St. Quentin (D flat: Compass, D to F') ...	0	5
3883 "O Divine Redeemer!" by Gounod (A: Compass A, to F')	0	4

FOUR-PART SONG—

3884 "Welcome Spring," No. II.—"Tender Music All Inviting," by Schubert ...	0	5
---	---	---



It will be found necessary to revise the postage rates of many of our Braille publications. Starting with January, the revised rate of subscription for the *Braille Mail* will be: Inland, 6s. 6d. per annum; abroad, 8s. 8d. Notice concerning the other Braille magazines will be made in the October issue.



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	1
Barclay Institutions for the Blind	2
"The Esperanta Ligilo"	2
Report of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind	3
Typewriting Without Hands	5
Braille Music Notation Meeting	6
Workshops for the Adult Blind	6
A Journey to Berlin	7
Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind	9
Andrew Carnegie	10
Ministry of Health Circular	11
Special Meeting of Tuners... ..	12
Life Story of Edward Rushton	13
The London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind	14
Leaders of the Blind	15
State Aid for the Blind	15
National Library for the Blind	16
Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind	16



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications.

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page. The list of new books added to the National Library will be found on page 16.

MUSIC.

PIANO—	s.	d.
3897 "In the North Country" (Six Impressions), by Markham Lee (Bar by Bar)	0	9
3898 "La Gazza Ladra" (Rossini) arranged by Dorn (Bar by Bar)...	0	4
3899 "La Donna del Lago" (Rossini) arranged by Dorn (Bar by Bar)	0	4
ORGAN—		
3900 "Fourth Sonata," by Mendelssohn (Bar by Bar) ...	0	9
3901 "Andante" (Pilgrim's March), from Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony, arranged by Chipp (Bar by Bar)	0	3
ANTHEMS—		
3902 "The Wilderness," by Goss (Vertical Score) ...	0	9
3903 "The Serbian National Anthem"	0	3
SONGS—		
3904 "Songs of Travel," Part II. (R. L. Stevenson) set to music by R. V. Williams (Compass, C to F') ...	0	9
3905 "Four Little Songs, by Wolstenholme (Compass F, sharp to E') ...	0	5
3906 "A Soft Day," by Stanford, Op. 140, No. 3 (D flat : Compass, D to D') ...	0	3
3907 "A Widow Bird Sat Mourning," by Selby (G minor : Compass, D to D') ...	0	2
3908 "Carmena" (Vocal Waltz), by Wilson (E : Compass C to G') ...	0	4
FOUR-PART SONG—		
3909 "Lighterman Tom," by Squire (E flat : Compass, B, to E') ...	0	4

3910 "In this hour of Softened Splendour," by Pinsuti (Open and Vertical Score)	0	5
---	---	---

THEORY.

3911 "Constructive Harmony," Part I., by Yorke Trotter ...	2	6
--	---	---

FICTION.

3893 Beyond the Boundary (Batten) (Pocket)	0	5
3894 A Baptism of Fire (Pocket) ...	0	4
3896 The Battle at the Township's End (Morris) (Pocket) ...	0	4

ESSAYS. Etc.

3892 Poetry of the Prison (Wyndham) (Pocket) ...	0	5
3895 Elizabethan Adventure and Literature (Wyndham) (Pocket) ...	0	6

MASSAGE.

3885 Galvanism, Notes on ...	2	6
3886 Re-education of the Voice (MacMahon) (Pocket) ...	0	3
3887 War Injuries to the Nerves (Soutar) (Pocket) ...	0	6
3888 Sexes, Structures and Extra-Organic Habits of Certain Animals (Ives) (Pocket) ...	0	5

FRENCH.

3889 Extracts from Contes et Legendes. Vol. 1 (Pocket) ...	0	4
3890 Ditto ditto ditto, vol. 2 ...	0	4
3891 " " " " 3 ...	0	4



It will be found necessary to revise the postage rates of many of our Braille publications. Starting with January, the revised rate of subscription for the *Braille Mail* will be: Inland, 6s. 6d. per annum; abroad, 8s. 8d. Notice concerning the other Braille magazines will be made in the October issue.



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	1
The Blind in Burma	2
Incidence of Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3
Royal School of Industry for the Blind, Bristol	4
Extraordinary Accomplishments ...	5
How the Blind May Sign	6
Correspondence	6
Royal Air Force	6
Why Not More Sunshine Homes? ...	7
State Aid for the Blind	9
Seal of Honour	10
Free Tramway Rides	10
National Institute for the Blind	11
Employment Bureau	14
Revised Prices	14
Sighted Blindness!	15
Second Meeting of Tuners... ..	16

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications.

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page.

FICTION.

				s.	d.
3921	The Uncommercial Traveller (Dickens)				
		Vol. 1	...	2	6
3922	Ditto ditto ditto		2	...	2 6
3923	" " "		3	...	2 6
3924	" " "		4	...	2 6
3925	" " "		5	...	2 6
3945	Great Portrait Mystery (Freeman)				
		Vol. 1	...	2	6
3946	Ditto ditto ditto		2	...	2 6
3947	" " "		3	...	2 6
3953	Hard Times (Dickens)		Vol. 1	...	2 6
3954	" " "		2	...	2 6
3955	" " "		3	...	2 6
3956	" " "		4	...	2 6
3957	" " "		5	...	2 6

HISTORICAL.

3918	Grand Fleet, 1914-1916 (Jellicoe)				
		Vol. 1	...	2	6
3919	Ditto ditto ditto		2	...	2 6
3920	" " "		3	...	2 6
3963	British Campaign in France, 1915 (Doyle)		Vol. 1	...	2 6
3964	Ditto ditto ditto		2	...	2 6
3965	" " "		3	...	2 6

BIOGRAPHY.

3912	Extracts from Plutarch's Lives (Sir T. North)		Vol. 1	...	2 6
3913	Ditto ditto ditto		2	...	2 6
3914	" " "		3	...	2 6
3915	" " "		4	...	2 6
3916	" " "		5	...	2 6
3617	" " "		6	...	2 6

MESSAGE.

3959	Hoblyn's Medical Dictionary	Vol. 3	...	2	6
------	-----------------------------	--------	-----	---	---

RELIGIOUS.

3934	Methodist Hymn Book (Small) special		Vol. 1	...	2 6
3935	Ditto ditto ditto		2	...	2 6
3936	" " "		3	...	2 6
3937	" " "		4	...	2 6
3938	" " "		5	...	2 6
3939	" " "		6	...	2 6
3940	" " "		7	...	2 6
3941	" " "		8	...	2 6
3942	" " "		9	...	2 6
3943	" " "		10	...	2 6
3944	" " "		11	...	2 6

ESSAYS, Etc.

3929	Lessons from Jutland ("Searchlight") (Miniature)			0	3
3933	Covenant of the League of Nations (Pocket)			0	5

FOREIGN.

3962	Dagli Apennini Alle Ande (Deamicis)			2	6
------	-------------------------------------	--	--	---	---

FRENCH.

3926	Pêcheur d'Islande (Pierre Loti)	Vol. 1	...	2	6
3927	" " "		2	...	2 6
3928	" " "		3	...	2 6
3948	Contes et Legendes (Gueber)	Vol. 1	...	2	6
3949	" " "		2	...	2 6
3950	" " "		3	...	2 6

JUVENILE.

3930	Jack's House and other stories (Miniature Interp.)			0	3
3931	Prince Curly Chin (Miniature Interp.)			0	3
3932	Tom and Ellie, etc.			0	3
3951	Beauty and the Beast (Parts 1-3) (Miniature)			0	3
3952	Ditto ditto (Parts 4-5) (Miniature)			0	3
3958	Golden Apples, etc. (Miniature)			0	3
3966	Hop-o'-my-thumb (Part 1) (Miniature)			0	3
3967	" (Part 2)			0	3
3968	The Frog Prince (Miniature)			0	3
3969	David Livingstone and the Lion, etc. (Miniature)			0	3
3970	Jack and the Beanstalk (Miniature)			0	3
3971	Little Red Riding-hood			0	3
3972	The Mermaid's Cap			0	3

MISCELLANEOUS.

3960	Victory Over Blindness (Pearson)				
		Vol. 1	...	2	6
3961	Ditto ditto ditto		2	...	2 6

CHRISTMAS MUSIC.

ANTHEM—

3973	"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (Cowen) (Vertical Score)			0	6
------	---	--	--	---	---

CAROLS—

	Christmas Carols, New and Old, remaining Selections from Stainer and Bramley's Collections (Vertical Score):—				
3974	No. 5, "Come, tune your heart"			0	2
3975	No. 15, "Glorious, beauteous"			0	3
3976	No. 34, "Christmas Song"			0	3
3977	No. 38, "In Terra Pax"			0	3
3978	No. 57, "The Christmas Celebration"			0	2
3979	No. 60, "The Angel and the Shepherds"			0	4
3980	No. 63, "The Shepherds went their hasty way"			0	4
3981	No. 65, "Mountains, bow your heads"			0	3

ORGAN—

3982	"Sonata No. 1 in E flat," by Bach (Vol. 1) (Bar by Bar)			0	4
------	---	--	--	---	---

(Continued on page three of cover.)



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	1
Canadian National Institute for the Blind	3
Rochdale and District Society for the Blind	4
Novelties in Braille Book Production	4
The Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs	5
Brighton Sale of Work	6
Alrik Lundberg	7
The Study of Architecture	9
Plans for the Education of Serbian Blind	10
Result of Baby Week	10
Massage for the Blind	11
Two Musical Prodigies	13
Social Gatherings at Folkestone	13
Worcester College	14
Correspondence	14
The Royal National Lifeboat Institution... ..	15
Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind	16
Worse Things than War	16

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications.

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page.

FICTION.

			s.	d.
4021	Tales and Fantasies (R. L. Stevenson)	Vol. 1 ...	2	6
4022	Ditto ditto ditto	„ 2 ...	2	6
4024	Owd Bob The Grey Dog (Olivant)	Vol. 1 ...	2	6
4025	Ditto ditto ditto	„ 2 ...	2	6
4026	„ „ „	„ 3 ...	2	6

JUVENILE.

4001	Cinderella (Miniature) ...	0	3
4002	The Wolf and the Seven Kids (Minature)	0	3

HISTORICAL.

4008	Ireland from "Story of the Nations" (Lawless) ...	2	6
4009	Ditto ditto ditto	2	6
4010	„ „ „	2	6
4011	„ „ „	2	6

EDUCATIONAL.

4012	Distant Lands (Mackinder)	Vol. 1 ...	2	6
4013	„ „	„ 2 ...	2	6
4014	„ „	„ 3 ...	2	6
4015	„ „	„ 4 ...	2	6
4016	„ „	„ 5 ...	2	6
4017	„ „	„ 6 ...	2	6
4018	„ „	„ 7 ...	2	6
4019	„ „	„ 8 ...	2	6
4020	„ „	„ 9 ...	2	6

FRENCH.

4003	French Conversation and Composition (De Pobog) (Pocket) ...	Part 4 ...	0	4
4004	Ditto ditto ditto	„ 5 ...	0	4
4005	„ „ „	„ 6 ...	0	4
4006	„ „ „	„ 7 ...	0	4
4007	„ „ „	„ 8 ...	0	4
4023	Le Gendre de Monsieur Poirier (Emile Augier) ...	... ..	2	6

MUSIC.

ORGAN—

4027	"Organ Studies," Grade I to III (Selected from the Syllabus of the Incorporated Society of Musicians) (Bar by Bar) ...	0	6
4028	"The Village Organist," Book I (A Series of Pieces for Church and General Use), edited by J. Stainer and F. Cunningham Woods (Bar by Bar) ...	1	0
4029	"Fifth Sonata," by Mendelssohn (Bar by Bar) ...	0	5

PIANO—

4030	"British Marches for Schools," edited and arranged by Martin Shaw (Bar by Bar)	0	9
4031	"Tarantella," No. 6 of Suite, by Edward German (Bar by Bar) ...	0	3

Music—continued.

		s.	d.
4032	"Welcome Home!" Lancers, arranged by J. A. Tunbridge (Bar by Bar) ...	0	6
4033	"Raggedy Doo," One-Step, by Jay Whidden (Bar by Bar) ...	0	3
4034	"Old Homestead," New Fox-Trot, by Penn (Bar by Bar) ...	0	3

DUETS—

4035	"Hungarian Dances," Book II, by Brahms (Primo Parts) (Bar by Bar)	0	6
4036	"Hungarian Dances," Book II, by Brahms (Secondo Parts) (Bar by Bar)	0	3

VIOLIN—

4037	"Thirty-six Elementary and Progressive Studies," by Kayser ...	2	6
------	--	---	---

SONGS—

4038	"O Sunny Beam" and "A Poet's Love," by Schumann (Compass, C to F') ...	0	4
4039	"One Only" and "Love," by Schumann (Compass, F to F') ...	0	4
4040	"I passed by Your Window" ("Song Pictures"), by Brahe (D: Compass, A, to F') ...	0	3
4041	"Rose in the Bud," by Forster (D flat: Compass, B, to F') ...	0	3
4042	"Sing! Break into Song," by Mallinson (G: Compass, D to E') ...	0	3

GAMES AND APPARATUS.

"New Style" Chess and Draughts with playing squares sunk:—

9092	Flat Draughtsboard ...	8	6
9090	Folding ditto ...	14	6
9093	Flat Chessboard (Drilled) ...	9	6
9091	Folding ditto (Drilled) ...	15	6
9169	Draughtsmen (in Cardboard Box) per set	4	0
9095	Draughtsmen (Polished Mahogany Box) per set	5	0

9094	Chessmen (Dowelled) ...	8	6
------	-------------------------	---	---

(The Draughtsmen are distinguished by size and each set includes four double pieces of each size for kings)

Both Chess and Draughts can be played on the Drilled Boards, but only Draughts can be played on the boards that are not drilled.

9167	"Compact" Chess (Complete in neat box measuring 9 in. by 6 in.) per set	4	6
9170	Russian Fives (an interesting game for two players) ...	13	6
9171	"Holt's" Patent Correspondence Tablets (Cards with raised lines for use with ordinary notepaper and postcards) per set of two	1	0

(The price of apparatus, etc., is liable to alteration without further notice, owing to the present unsettled condition of Labour.)

The Christmas

BEACON

*A Magazine devoted to the
Interests of the Blind.*



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications.

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page.

EDUCATIONAL.

			s.	d.
4043	Cæsar: De Bello Gallico	Book 4 ...	2	6
4044	Climax Prote. First Greek Reader			
	(Marchant)	... ..	2	6
4045	English Gothic Architecture (Ditchfield)		2	6

JUVENILE.

4046	Eros and Psyche (Miniature) Parts 1-3	...	0	3
4047	"	" " " " 4-5	0	3
4048	The Fairy Pearl (Miniature)	...	0	3
4049	Fairies and the Hunchbacks (Miniature)		0	3

FICTION.

4051	Edwin Drood, etc. (Dickens)	Vol. 1 ...	2	6
4052	"	" " " 2	2	6
4053	"	" " " 3	2	6
4054	"	" " " 4	2	6
4055	"	" " " 5	2	6

MUSIC.

PIANO—

4056	Associated Board Examination Studies and Pieces (1920) Elementary Division Lists A, B, C (Bar by Bar)	...	0	9
4057	Associated Board Examination Studies and Pieces (1920) Higher Division List A (Bar by Bar)	...	0	4
4058	Special Studies for the Pianoforte, Grade III. (Higher Intermediate) Lists "A" and "B" (Selected from the Syllabus of the Incorporated Society of Musicians) (Bar by Bar)	...	1	6
4059	"Concert Study," by Swinstead, Op. 20 (Bar by Bar)	...	0	4
4060	First Piano Lessons, Book I. "Scenes at a Farm" (A Series of Easy Pieces for Beginners) by Carroll (Bar by Bar)		0	6
4061	Wedding March from "Lohengrin," by Wagner, arranged by Eyken (Bar by Bar)	...	0	3

Music—continued.

			s.	d.
4062	"Merrie England" (Selection) by German	(Bar by Bar)	0	9
4063	"Maxina" Round Dance, by Boissonade and Hurndall (Bar by Bar)	.. ...	0	3
4064	"Hesitation" Waltz, by Openshaw (Bar by Bar)	... ..	0	3

ORGAN—

4065	"Pastorale in E," by Lemare (Bar by Bar)	... ..	0	3
4066	"For Unto Us a Child is Born" ("The Messiah") arranged by Smart (Bar by Bar)	... ..	0	3

CHURCH—

4067	"A Simple Morning Service in D," by Shaw (Vertical Score)	... ..	0	5
4068	"Communion Service in A flat," by Harwood (Vertical Score)	... ..	1	6

SONGS—

4069	"To Me at my Fifth-floor Window," by Mallinson (F minor: Compass, F to F')		0	3
4070	"The Road of Looking-Forward," by Löhr (E flat: Compass, B, to E')	...	0	4
4071	"Roses and Love," by Ray (B flat: Compass, C to E')	... ..	0	3
4072	"Twilight Songs for Little Children," by Lady Hill (Compass, B, flat to G')		0	6

FOUR-PART SONG—

4073	"The Moon Doth Shed its Quiv'ring Light," by Hardebeck (Open and Vertical Score)	0	6
------	--	--------	---	---

THEORETICAL.

4050	Pianoforte Tuning (Layton)	...	0	6
------	----------------------------	-----	---	---

GAMES AND APPARATUS.

9038	"Millard" Metal Writing Frame (for pen and pencil)...	Quarto size	2	6
9039	Ditto ditto	Note size	1	6



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	Blind Man's Model of his Home ...	9
Music at the National Institute ...	2	Mr. "Pussyfoot" Johnson's Generosity	9
The Prince and the Blind	3	The Blinded Soldier as a Masseur ...	10
A Gifted Violinist	3	Report of the Board of Education ...	12
Esperanto for the Blind	3	Advisory Committee on the Welfare	
Presentation to Sir Arthur Pearson		of the Blind	13
by Men of St. Dunstan's	4	"Keith's Dark Tower"	14
St. Dunstan's Pierrots Variety Concert	5	The Story of Æsculapius	15
"Through St. Dunstan's to Light" ...	6	Recent Additions to the National	
The Victory Concert	7	Library for the Blind	16
Music at Sunshine House	8	Brighton's Blind	16

1920

JANUARY.

Vol. IV. No. 37.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications.

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page.

JUVENILE.

4074	The Ugly Duckling (Miniature)	s. d.
	Parts 1-3 ...	0 3
4075	Ditto ditto " 4-5 ...	0 3
4076	Story of the Princess Ageless Beauty (Miniature) ...	0 3
4077	Ditto ditto " 3-4 ...	0 3
4081	Cock and the Fox (Miniature) ...	2 6

SCIENCE.

4078	Progress of Science (Huxley) ...	2 6
------	----------------------------------	-----

PLAYS.

4079	The Younger Generation (Houghton) ...	2 6
4080	The Silver Box (Galsworthy) ...	2 6
4097	His Excellency the Governor (Marshall) ...	2 6
4100	Hindle Wakes (Houghton) ...	2 6
4107	The Explorer (Maugham) ...	2 6

HISTORY.

4082	Short History of Ireland (Joyce) Vol. 1 ...	2 6
4083	" " " 2 ...	2 6
4084	" " " 3 ...	2 6
4085	" " " 4 ...	2 6
4086	" " " 5 ...	2 6
4087	" " " 6 ...	2 6
4088	" " " 7 ...	2 6

EDUCATIONAL.

4089	Greek English Lexicon to the New Testament (Bury) (small character) ...	2 6
------	---	-----

POETRY.

4096	The Glow of Life (Martin) ...	2 6
------	-------------------------------	-----

FICTION.

4101	Tess of the D'Urbervilles (Hardy)				Vol. 1 ...	2	6
4102	Ditto	ditto	ditto	"	2 ...	2	6
4103	"	"	"	"	3 ...	2	6
4104	"	"	"	"	4 ...	2	6
4105	"	"	"	"	5 ...	2	6
4106	"	"	"	"	6 ...	2	6

ESSAYS, Etc.

4098	Adventures in Contentment (Grayson)	Vol. 1 ...	2	6
4099	Ditto ditto ditto	" 2 ...	2	6

MUSIC LITERATURE.

4090	Studies in Modern Music (Hadow)				
			First Series—Vol. 1 ...	2 6	
4091	Ditto	ditto	ditto „ 2 ...	2 6	
4092	„	„	„ „ 3 ...	2 6	
4093	„	Second Series—Vol. 1 ...		2 6	
4094	„	„	„ „ 2 ...	2 6	
4095	„	„	„ „ 3 ...	2 6	

MISCELLANEOUS.

4129	Almanac for 1920 (post free) ...	1 0
------	----------------------------------	-----

MUSIC.

ORGAN—

4108	"Introduction und Passacaglia," by Max Reger (Bar by Bar) ...	0 5
4109	"All the Earth doth Worship Thee" (Handel's "Dettinger Te Deum") arranged by Smart (Bar by Bar) ...	0 3
4110	"Berceuse," by Hollins (Bar by Bar) ...	0 4
4111	"The Village Organist," Book 46 (A Series of Pieces for Church and General Use), Edited by John E. West (Bar by Bar) ...	1 0

PIANO—

4112	Associated Board Examination Studies and Pieces (1920), Lower Division, Lists A, B, C (Bar by Bar) ...	1 0
4113	Nos. 1 and 2 of "Forty-eight Preludes and Fugues" (Part I), by Bach (Bar by Bar) ...	0 4
4114	Nos. 7 and 8 of "Forty-eight Preludes and Fugues" (Part II), by Bach (Bar by Bar) ...	0 6
4115	"Sonata No 13," by Beethoven, Op. 27, No. 1. (Bar by Bar) ...	1 0
4116	"Six Fancies for the Piano," by MacDowell (Bar by Bar) ...	0 5
4117	"Rococo," by Palmgren. (Bar by Bar) ...	0 2
4118	"Peace Valse," by Barnett (Bar by Bar) ...	0 3
4119	"Con Amore" Romance, by Carton (Bar by Bar) ...	0 3

SONGS—

4120	"Eleanore," by Mallinson (E: Compass D to E') ...	0 3
4121	"My Captain," by Cyril Scott (F: Compass, C to D') ...	0 4
4122	"Through all the Ages," by Coates (G: Compass, D to G') ...	0 4
4123	"Song of a Soul," by Preston-Clark (E flat: Compass, C to E') ...	0 3
4124	"Poppies for Forgetting," by Coningsby Clarke (E flat: Compass, D to E') ...	0 2
4125	"The Blackbird Sings to You," by Baumer (E flat: Compass, C to F') ...	0 2
4126	"In Summertime on Bredon," by Peel (E flat: Compass, B, to E') ...	0 4
4127	"Sea Echoes" (Set of Three Songs), by Phillips (Low Voice: Compass, C to G') ...	0 5

TRIO—

4128	"The Magic Hour" (Part Song for Female Voices) (Open and Vertical Score) ...	0 5
------	--	-----



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	The Pennsylvania Institution for the	
Childhood's Royal Road to Learning	3	Instruction of the Blind	10
Babies Help the Babies	4	Glasgow Blind Asylum	11
A War Loan Adventure	4	Educational and Industrial Schools	
A Blind Botanist	5	for the Blind, Palamcottah	12
"The Blind Ploughman"	6	Sunshine in the Dark	13
British Empire Ball	6	Recent Additions to the National	
How the Blind Travel	7	Library for the Blind	14
A Massage Library for the Blind ...	9	Faculty of the Blind to "See" ...	14
Methyl Alcohol and Blindness ...	9	Miners' Blindness	15
		Blind Men and Literature	16

FEBRUARY.

1920

Vol. IV. No. 38

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications.

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page.

MUSIC.

- CHURCH MUSIC— s. d.
- 4151 "O Death, Where is thy Sting?" (Easter Anthem) by Hollins (Vertical Score) 0 4

- ORGAN—
- 4152 "Fifth Sonata in C minor," by Guilman, Op. 80 (Bar by Bar) ... 2 0
- 4153 Choral Prelude on the "Old 104th," by Parry (Bar by Bar) ... 0 4
- 4154 "Allegretto in E flat," by Wolstenholme, Op. 17, No. 2 (Bar by Bar) ... 0 2

- PIANO—
- 4155 First Piano Lessons, Book II., "The Countryside" (a Series of Easy Pieces for Beginners), by Carroll (Bar by Bar) ... 0 6
- 4156 "Noel," by Gardiner (Bar by Bar) ... 0 2
- 4157 "The Mikado" (Selection), by Sullivan (Bar by Bar) ... 0 9

- DUETS—
- 4158 Soirées Musicales, Book II, by D'Ourville (Primo Parts) (Bar by Bar) ... 0 5
- 4159 Ditto (Secondo Parts) (Bar by Bar) 0 5

- SONGS—
- 4160 "My Heart, Ever Faithful" (Air for Soprano), by Bach (C : Compass, C to E') ... 0 4
- 4161 Songs of a Great War ("Blind" and "The Cost"), by Ireland (Medium Voice : Compass C to F') ... 0 3
- 4162 "An Old Song Ended," by C. Scott (F : Compass : D to F') ... 0 3
- 4163 "Under the Stars," by Craxton (E flat : Compass, E to F') ... 0 4
- 4164 "Songs of Syria" (Set of Four Songs), by Easthope Martin (Low Voice : Compass, C to E') ... 0 9

- SCHOOL SONGS—
- 4165 "The Kingsway Book of School Songs," by various Composers ... 2 0

Music—continued.

- FOUR-PART SONG— s. d.
- 4166 "A Fishing Story" (Male Voices), by Alexander (Open and Vertical Score) 0 3

PLAYS.

- 4130 Milestones (Bennett) ... 2 6
- 4141 Second in Command (Marshall) ... 2 6
- 4143 Old Lady Shows her Medals (Barrie)... 2 6
- 4146 Trelawny of the Wells (Pinero) ... 2 6

MASSAGE.

- 4142 Nerve Control (Five Lectures) (Hunt) . 1 6

BIOGRAPHY.

- 4147 Lives of Great Men (Told by Great Men) Vol. 1 2 6
- 4148 " " " " 2 2 6
- 4149 " " " " 3 2 6
- 4150 " " " " 4 2 6

ESSAYS, BELLES LETTRES.


- 4131 Two Girls on the Land (Hockin) Vol. 1 ... 2 6
- 4132 " " " 2 ... 2 6

MISCELLANEOUS.

- 4133 1920 Knitting and Crochet Book ... 2 6
- 4144 Royal Auction Bridge (Bergholt). Part 1 2 6
- 4145 " " " " 2 2 6

HISTORICAL.

- 4134 Readings in English History, from Original Sources (Morgan & Balley) Book 1 ... 2 6
- 4135 " " " 2, Vol. 1 ... 2 6
- 4136 " " " 2, " 2 ... 2 6
- 4137 " " " 3, " 1 ... 2 6
- 4138 " " " 3, " 2 ... 2 6
- 4139 " " " 4, " 1 ... 2 6
- 4140 " " " 4, " 2 ... 2 6



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

▪ CONTENTS ▪

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	Rome Saved by a Blind Man	10
Pearson's Fresh Air Fund	3	Training the Blind	11
Braille Pictures	4	St. Dunstan's from an American Point of View	12
Problems of Heredity	4	From Red Cross to St. Dunstan's ...	13
Women of Vision	5	Le Pays de Leurs Pères	14
The Blind as True Leaders	6	Blind Organist's Distinction	15
Presentation to Mr. Carr	6	Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind	16
The Borstal System	7	The Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham	16
"Is it the Sun?"	8	Music at the National Institute ...	16
The Best Written or Spoken	8		
Scope for the Blind in General Occupations	9		

MARCH.

Vol. IV. No. 39.

New Publications.

FICTION.

MASSAGE.

EDUCATIONAL.

PLAY.


MUSIC.

PIANO—

ORGAN—


SONGS—

4190	"Sherwood" ("Day-break"), by Dear (D flat: Compass, B, to E')	...	...	...	...	...	0	4
4191	"Mally O!" by Howells (F sharp min.: Compass, C to C')	...	...	...	...	...	0	3
4192	"Remember," by Ireland (C: Compass, C sharp to F')	...	...	...	...	...	0	3



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



▪ CONTENTS ▪

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial ...	1	Blind Athletes ...	13
Flying to Music ...	4	Pensions in Theory and Practice ...	14
A Tonsorial Tragedy ...	5	The Lady Algernon Percy ...	16
The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust...	7	Music at the National Institute ...	16
Hospital-School for the Blind ...	8	West of England Blind... ..	16
Fire at St. Dunstan's ...	9	Recent Additions to the National	
Provision for the Blind... ..	10	Library for the Blind ...	16



APRIL.

Vol. IV. No. 40.

New Publications.

FICTION.

[illegible]

4196	Heroes of Science, No. 4 (Flamsteed, Smeaton, Maxwell, and Brindley) (Pocket)	0	4
4197	Ditto ditto (Watt and Stephenson) (Pocket)	0	4
4198	Ditto ditto (Telford, Trevithick, Stephenson)	0	4

4201	Outline of History (Wells)	Vol. 1	...	2	6
------	----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------	-----	---	---

4212	Petits Contes de Fées (Kirkman)	2	6
4 13	New Course of Commercial French (Carroué)	Vol.	1	...	2	6
4214	Ditto ditto ditto	"	2	...	2	6
4215	" " "	"	3	...	2	6
4216	" " "	"	4	...	2	6
4217	" " "	"	5	...	2	6
4218	" " "	"	6	...	2	6

4219	"Prelude and Fugue" in F sharp minor, by Buxtehude (Bar by Bar)	0	4
4220	"Idyll No. 5," by Gray (Bar by Bar)	0	4
4221	"Finale," by Schumann (Bar by Bar)	0	6
4222	"Finale," by Smart (Bar by Bar)	0	4
4223	"Epilogue," by Willan (Bar by Bar)	0	4
4224	"Evening Song," by Bairstow (Bar by Bar)	0	3
4225	"Sixth Sonata," by Mendelssohn (Bar by Bar)	0	9
4226	"The Village Organist," Book II. (A Series of Pieces for Church and General Use) edited by J. Stainer and F. Cunningham Woods (Bar by Bar)	0	9

4227	"Forest Fantasies" (A Set of Nine Pieces), by Carroll (Bar by Bar)	0	9
4228	"Iolanthe" (Selection), by Sullivan (Bar by Bar)	0	9

4229	“O Clap Your Hands” (Anthem), by Stainer 0 9
------	--	------------

4230	"Rest at Eventide," by Baynton-Power (C: Compass, B, to D')	0	3
4231	"The Maid and the Moon," by Coates (E flat: Compass, D to E')	0	3
4232	"Boat Song," by Stanford (F: Compass, E to F')	0	3
4233	"Golden Dancing Days," by Coningsby Clarke (F: Compass, B, natural to F')	0	4
4234	"Where She Lies Asleep," by Bridge (D: Compass, D to E')	0	3
4235	"Seven Children's Songs," by Grieg, Op. 61	1	0



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



• CONTENTS •

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	Annual Report of the Liverpool Work-	10
The Massage Library	3	shops	10
Board of Education	4	The King and the Blinded Officer ...	10
Fire Risks in Institutions	5	The Cardiff Institute for the Blind ...	10
College of Teachers of the Blind ...	5	Conference at Clothworkers' Hall ...	11
Getting About Alone	6	"Blind Musician and the Braille" ...	14
March of the Blind to London... ..	7	Blinded Soldiers' Victory	15
Music at the National Institute	8	Recent Additions to the National	
Insurance for the Blind	8	Library for the Blind	16
Boxer Gently Handled	9	National Library for the Blind	16
Association of Women Workers of St.		Reading Competition	16
Dunstan's	10		



MAY.

Vol. IV. No. 41.

New Publications

HISTORICAL

FICTION

THEORETICAL

SCIENTIFIC


CHURCH—

MUSIC

ORGAN—


PIANO—SONGS—

4314	"Blondel's Song" and "The Walnut Tree," by Schumann (G: Compass, D to G')	...	...	0	9
4315	"Gipsies," by Peel (E flat: Compass, C to A')	...	...	0	4
4316	"The Pipes of Pan are Calling," by Monckton (F: Compass, C to F')	...	...	0	3
4317	"Life's Lullaby," by Lane (G: Compass, D to E')	...	...	0	4
4318	"The Enchanted Forest," by Phillips (C: Compass, C to G')	...	...	0	4
4319	"Starry Woods," by Phillips (E minor: Compass, D to G')	...	...	0	3
4320	"Folk Songs from Somerset," Edited by Sharp	...	...	2	6



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



• CONTENTS •

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	Meeting of the Educators of the Blind	12
Blind Children	3	Bristol Blind Boys	12
Blind Man's Long Walk	3	"Deliverance"	13
Thirty Years in the Dark	3	Secrets Told by the Eye	13
Blind Persons Bill	4	Braille Books	14
A Library for the Blind	5	Notable Blind Musicians	15
Reading for the Blind	6	Musical Successes	15
A Reading Competition for the Blind..	11	Recent Additions to the National	
The Second Oldest Order	11	Library for the Blind	16
Recent Additions to the Massage Library	11		



JUNE.

Vol. IV. No. 42.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page.

FICTION

				s.	d.
4247	Paid Out (Bessell)	...	Vol. 1	2	6
4248	Ditto ditto	...	"	2	6
4249	"	...	"	3	2
4286	Splendid Spur (Quiller-Couch)	...	Vol. 1	2	6
4287	Ditto ditto	...	"	2	6
4325	Ship of Coral (Stacpoole)	...	Vol. 1	2	6
4326	Ditto ditto	...	"	2	6
4327	"	...	"	3	2

ESSAYS, Etc.

4283	The Newspaper (Diblee)	...	Vol. 1	2	6
4284	Ditto ditto	...	"	2	6
4246	Selections from Memories and Portraits (Stevenson)	...	...	2	6

ARITHMETIC

4321	New Guide Arithmetic, Book III, (Teachers)	...	Vol. 1	2	6
4322	Ditto ditto	...	"	2	6
4323	"	...	"	3	2
4324	"	...	(Scholars)	2	6

RELIGIOUS

4252	The Life of Christ (Farrar)	...	Vol. 1	2	6
4253	Ditto ditto	...	"	2	6
4254	"	...	"	3	2
4255	"	...	"	4	2
4256	"	...	"	5	2
4257	"	...	"	6	2
4258	"	...	"	7	2
4259	"	...	"	8	2
4260	"	...	"	9	2
4261	"	...	"	10	2
4262	"	...	"	11	2
4263	"	...	"	12	2
4264	"	...	"	13	2
4265	"	...	"	14	2
4266	"	...	"	15	2

MASSAGE

4290	Arboreal Man (Wood Jones)	...	Vol. 1	2	6
4291	Ditto ditto	...	"	2	6
4329	Notes on Swedish Remedial Exercises	...	...	2	6

FOREIGN

4250	Crustula (Latin and Greek) (Wells)	2	6
------	------------------------------------	-----	-----	---	---

MUSIC

CHURCH—

4336	"The Lord is Gracious and Merciful" (Anthem), by Ouseley (Vertical Score)	0	5
------	---	-----	-----	---	---

ORGAN—

4337	"Allegretto Grazioso," by Fuchs, Op. 21 (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	4
4338	"Requiem Æternam," by Harwood, Op. 15 (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	3
4339	"Carillon in B flat," by Wolstenholme (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	3

Music—(continued)

				s.	d.
4340	"The Village Organist," Book 9 (A Series of Pieces for Church and General Use), edited by J. Stainer and F. Cunningham Woods (Bar by Bar)	...	...	1	0

PIANO—

4341	Technical Exercises: Preparatory, Elementary and Intermediate Grades (Selected from the Syllabus of the Incorporated Society of Musicians) (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	6
4342	"Sommervise," by Gröndahl, Op. 45, No. 3 (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	3
4343	"Stray Thoughts" (four Little Pieces), by York Bowen, Op. 8 (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	4
4344	"Three Dream Dances," by Coleridge-Taylor (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	6
4345	"Danse Cracovienne," by Douste (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	3
4346	"Patience" (Selection), by Sullivan (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	6
4347	"Lyric Pieces," Book VI, Op. 57, Nos. 1—3 (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	5
4348	Ditto ditto Nos. 4—6 (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	5
4349	"Over There" (Fox-Trot), arranged by Higgs (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	3
4350	"Delilah" (Valse), by Nicholls (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	3
4351	"La Rinka" (Round Dance), by Beale (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	3
4352	"Going Up" (One or Two-Step), by Hirsch (Bar by Bar)	...	...	0	3

VIOLIN—

4353	Melodic and Progressive Studies, Book I, by Mazas	2	6
------	---	-----	-----	---	---

SONGS—

4354	"God Shall Wipe away all Tears" (Air from "The Light of the World"), by Sullivan (E: Compass, B, to E')	...	...	0	3
4355	"Requiem," by Homer (G flat: Compass, E to D')	...	...	0	3
4356	"Fifinella," by Oliver (B flat: Compass, C to F')	...	...	0	3
4357	"Ah, Moon of My Delight" (Recit and Air from "In a Persian Garden"), by Lehmann (G: Compass, C to A')	...	...	0	5
4358	"Bluebells from the Clearings," by Walker (B flat: Compass, C to D')	...	...	0	3
4359	"Villanelle" ("With the Swallow"), by Eva Dell'Acqua (B flat: Compass, B, to D')	...	...	0	4
4360	"Pleading," by Elgar (F: Compass, C to E')	...	...	0	3
4361	"The Perfect Tune" (Set of Six Little Songs), by Clarke (High Voice: Compass, C to A')	...	...	0	9

FOUR-PART SONG—

4362	"A Spring Song," by Pinsuti (Open and Vertical Score)	0	6
------	---	-----	-----	---	---



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	Scottish Board of Health	11
Blind Teachers' Record	3	The Blind in India	11
The System of Training in Rhythm and Rhythmic Movement	4	The Sieve of Blindness... ..	12
Charities and Voluntary Contributions	5	Blind Sportsmen	14
University Examinations	6	Music at the National Institute	15
Books Added to Massage Library	6	Employment Bureau	15
The Montessori Method	7	"Blindness"	15
College of Teachers of the Blind	10	Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind	16
Grand Athletic Meeting and Fair	10	Blind Curate's Work	16
Blind Girls' College	11		

JULY.

Vol. IV. No. 43.

New Publications

[illegible]



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



▪ CONTENTS ▪

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	The Perfect Gentleman	9
Music at the National Institute ...	3	Blinded Soldiers' Regatta at Putney...	9
Royal Visit to Newington House ...	4	Blind Women Weavers	10
Blind Teachers for the Blind	4	Books Added to Massage Library ...	11
Officers' Fête	4	The Care of the Blind	11
Wilts County Committee	5	Great Examples... ..	12
Blind Missioner's Death	5	Blind Persons' Bill	13
The Care of Blind Women	5	Birmingham Royal Institution ...	13
Blind Organist's Long Service	5	Silent Friends	14
Essay on the Most Helpful Feature of the Pelman Course	6	The Blind Child... ..	16
Sir Arthur Pearson Visits Cheltenham	7	Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind	16

1920

AUGUST.

Vol. IV. No. 44.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page.

EDUCATIONAL				s.	d.
4363	New Guide Arithmetic (Scholars), Book 4	Vol. 1 ...	2	6	
4364	Ditto ditto ditto " 2 ...		2	6	
4365	New Guide Arithmetic (Teachers), Book 4	Vol. 1 ...	2	6	
4366	Ditto ditto ditto " 2 ...		2	6	
4367	" " " " 3 ...		2	6	
4368	" " " " 4 ...		2	6	
4393	Pearson's Easy Dictionary (A. Cyril Pearson)	Vol. 1 ...	2	6	
4394	Ditto ditto ditto " 2 ...		2	6	
4395	" " " " 3 ...		2	6	
4396	" " " " 4 ...		2	6	
4397	" " " " 5 ...		2	6	
4398	" " " " 6 ...		2	6	
4399	" " " " 7 ...		2	6	
4400	" " " " 8 ...		2	6	
4401	" " " " 9 ...		2	6	
4402	" " " " 10 ...		2	6	
4403	" " " " 11 ...		2	6	
4404	" " " " 12 ...		2	6	

FICTION

4419	Those who smiled (and other stories) (Gibbon)	Vol. 1 ...	2	6	
4420	Ditto ditto ditto " 2 ...		2	6	

HISTORICAL

4204	Outline of History (Wells) ...	Vol. 4 ...	2	6	
4205	" " " " 5 ...		2	6	
4206	" " " " 6 ...		2	6	

MISCELLANEOUS

4267	The Cypress Tree (Miniature) ...		0	3	
4268	The Chariot of Apollo (Miniature) ...		0	3	
4269	The Caterpillar and the Lark (Miniature) ...		0	3	
4270	The Story of Persephone (Miniature) ...		0	3	
4271	The Pipes of Pan (Miniature) ...		0	3	
4272	The King of the Golden River (Miniature)	Vol. 1 ...	0	3	
4273	Ditto ditto ditto " 2 ...		0	3	
4274	" " " " 3 ...		0	3	
4275	" " " " 4 ...		0	3	
4276	Story of Hiawatha (Miniature) Vol. 1 ...		0	3	
4277	" " " " 2 ...		0	3	
4278	" " " " 3 ...		0	3	
4279	" " " " 4 ...		0	3	

MUSICAL

4451	Growth of Music (Colles) Part 2 Vol. 1 ...		2	6	
4452	" " " " 2 " 2 ...		2	6	

CHURCH—

MUSIC

4466	"Come, ye thankful people, come" (Harvest Anthem), by Stanford (Vertical Score)		0	6	
4467	"Ho! everyone that thirsteth" (Anthem for Bass Solo and Chorus), by Martin (Vertical Score)		0	6	

Music—continued

s. d.

4468	"Evening Service in D" by Woodward (Vertical Score)	0	6	
------	---	---	---	--

ORGAN—

4469	"Sleepers, Wake!" (Choral Prelude), by Bach (Bar by Bar)	0	4	
4470	"Fantasia in E," by Wolstenholme (Bar by Bar)	0	6	
4471	"Elegiac Romance," by Ireland (Bar by Bar)	0	4	
4472	"The Village Organist," Book 37 (Funeral Music), (a Series of Pieces for Church and General Use), edited by F. Cunningham Woods (Bar by Bar) ...	0	9	

PIANO—

4473	Nos. 3 and 4 of "Forty-eight Preludes and Fugues," Part I, by Bach (Bar by Bar)	0	6	
4474	"Rêverie d'Amour," by York Bowen, Op. 20, No. 2 (Bar by Bar)	0	5	
4475	"First Peer Gynt Suite," by Grieg Op. 46 (Bar by Bar)	0	6	
4476	"Marche Militaire," by Schubert, ar- ranged by Tausig (Bar by Bar) ...	0	6	
4477	"Sweet Lavender," by Elliott (Bar by Bar)	0	3	
4478	"Grande Valse de Concert," by Mattei (Bar by Bar)	0	5	

DUETS—


4479	"Progressive Duets," Book II, by Carse (Primo Parts) (Bar by Bar) ...	0	5	
4480	Ditto (Secondo Parts) (Bar by Bar)	0	5	

SONGS—

4481	"Moonlight" and "A Holiday on the Rhine," by Schumann (Compass, G, to F' sharp)	0	5	
4482	"A Devonshire Wedding," by Lyall Phillips (D: Compass, B, to E') ...	0	4	
4483	"Isobel," by Frank Bridge (A: Compass, C to E')	0	3	
4484	"At the mid hour of night," by Cowen (E flat: Compass, C to E')	0	3	
4485	"Songs of Springtime" by Landon Ronald (Medium Voice: Compass, B, to G') ...	0	9	
4486	"Four Songs of the Fair," by Easthope Martin (Low Voice: Compass, A, to F')	0	6	


FOUR-PART SONGS—

4487	"Viking Song" (T.T.B.B.), by Coleridge- Taylor (Open and Vertical Scores) ...	0	6	
4488	"My Luve is Like a Red, Red Rose" (T.T.B.B.), by Bantock (Open and Vertical Scores)	0	4	
4489	"An Old Rat's Tale" (A.T.T.B.), by Frederick Bridge (Open and Vertical Scores)	0	6	



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	A Blind Farmer	11
The Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs	2	The Blind in Spain	12
The Blind Man	3	Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society	12
Blind Children's Dreams	4	A Blind Gardener	13
A Blind Poultry Expert	4	The Blind Persons Act	13
Royal Normal College for the Blind...	5	Blind Curate Licensed	14
Scholastic Notes	5	A Cheerful Scholar	14
A St. Dunstan's Home in South Africa	6	A Centenarian	14
A Blind Violinist	8	Land's End to John o' Groats ...	14
How Peter Found Sunshine	9	My Walk Along the Front	15
		Chess in Literature and History ...	16



SEPTEMBER.

Vol. IV. No. 45.

New Publications

EDUCATIONAL											<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		
4369	New	Guide	Arithmetic (Scholars), Book 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	Vol. 1	...	2	6	
4370	"	"	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	"	2	...	2	6
4371	New	Guide	Arithmetic (Teachers), Book 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	Vol. 1	...	2	6	
4372	"	"	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	"	2	...	2	6
4373	"	"	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	"	3	...	2	6
4374	"	"	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	"	4	...	2	6

FICTION																
4421	The Terrible Island	(Grimshaw)	Vol. 1	...	2	6	
4422	"	"	"	2	...	2	6
4460	Foul Play	(Reade)	"	1	...	2	6
4461	"	"	"	2	...	2	6
4462	"	"	"	3	...	2	6
4463	"	"	"	4	...	2	6
4464	Mr. Meeson's Will	(Haggard)	"	1	...	2	6
4465	"	"	"	2	...	2	6

[illegible][illegible]

4423	Essays in Criticism (First Series) (Arnold)	Vol. 1	... 2	6
4424	" " " " " " " " " " " "	" 2	... 2	6
4425	" " " " " " " " " " " "	" 3	... 2	6

4207 Outline of History (Wells) Vol. 7 ... 2 6

MUSIC

4500 "Thou Crownest the Year with Thy Goodness" (Harvest Anthem) by Booth (Vertical Score) ... 0 4

4501	“The Village Organist,” Book 13 (A Series of Pieces for Church and General Use), edited by J. Stainer and F. Cunningham Woods (Bar by Bar) 1 0
4502	“Tannhäuser, Overture,” by Wagner (Bar by Bar) 1 0

[illegible]

4508	"The Children's Summer Day" (A Song-Cycle for Young Children), by Foster	1	0
4509	"The Children's Winter Day" (A Song-Cycle for Young Children), by Foster	0	9
4510	"To a Fair Lady," by Nicole (E flat: Compass, B, to E')	0 4
4511	"The Bells of San Marie," by Ireland (A minor: Compass, D to E')	0 3
4512	"My Love and I," by MacDowell (D: Compass, D to D' sharp)	0 4
4513	"Four Songs," by MacDowell (Low Voice: Compass, B, flat to E' natural)	0 4
4514	"Marjorie's Almanack," by Sainton-Dolby (E: Compass, B, to E')	0 3
4515	"A Bowl of Roses," by C. Clarke (D: Compass, D to F')	0 3



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



▪ CONTENTS ▪

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial	1	The Psychology of the Blind	8
Blind Persons Act, 1920	2	Sight Tests	10
Annual Report of the National Institute for the Blind	3	Blind French Officer's Triumph	10
Library of Congress	4	The Eyes of St. Dunstan's	11
How I Became a Modeller	5	A Famous Swiss Naturalist	12
The Application of the War Charities Act	6	Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind	13
Recent Additions to the Massage Library	6	A Worker for the Blind	14
Defective Eyesight	7	The Dotted Text	15
		Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind	16

OCTOBER.

Vol. IV. No. 46.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page.

ESSAYS AND BELLES LETTRES				s.	d.
4282	Bells of St. Clements (Ball) (Pocket) ...	0	5		
4497	The Friendly Road (Grayson) Vol. 1 ...	2	6		
4498	" " " " " 2 ...	2	6		
4516	Shakespeare Workmanship (Quiller-Couch) ... Vol. 1 ...	2	6		
4517	Ditto ditto ditto " 2 ...	2	6		
4518	" " " " 3 ...	2	6		

FICTION

4388	The Competition in the "Castlebar" (Roberts) (Pocket)	0	5
4491	Master Mariners (Spears) ...	2	6
4499	The Silver Fox (Somerville and Ross)	2	6

GAMES

4243	Pocket Guide to Écarté (Cavendish) ...	0	5
------	--	---	---

GEOGRAPHICAL

4459	Atlas of America (Taylor) ...	2	6
4523	Modern Geography (Newbiggin) Vol. 1 ...	2	6
4524	Ditto ditto ditto " 2 ...	2	6

HISTORICAL

4208	Outline of History (Wells) Vol. 8 ...	2	6
4408	The Nations of the Modern World (Mackinder) No. 5 ... Vol. 1 ...	2	6
4409	Ditto ditto ditto " 2 ...	2	6
4410	" " " " 3 ...	2	6
4411	" " " " 4 ...	2	6
4412	" " " " 5 ...	2	6
4413	" " " " 6 ...	2	6
4414	" " " " 7 ...	2	6
4415	" " " " 8 ...	2	6
4416	" " " " 9 ...	2	6
4417	" " " " 10 ...	2	6
4418	" " " " 11 ...	2	6
4453	Modern British State (Mackinder) No. 6 Vol. 1 ...	2	6
4454	Ditto ditto ditto " 2 ...	2	6
4455	" " " " 3 ...	2	6
4456	" " " " 4 ...	2	6
4457	" " " " 5 ...	2	6
4519	Plato's Republic (Spens) Vol. 1 ...	2	6
4520	" " " " 2 ...	2	6
4521	" " " " 3 ...	2	6
4522	" " " " 4 ...	2	6

JUVENILE

4492	The Blue Fairy Book (Lang) Vol. 1 ...	2	6
4493	" " " " 2 ...	2	6
4494	" " " " 3 ...	2	6
4495	" " " " 4 ...	2	6

MISCELLANEOUS

4288	Venereal Diseases and Their Effects (Pocket) ...	0	4
4289	What Mothers Must Tell Their Children (Pocket) ...	0	4
4496	How to Fight Venereal Disease (Pocket)	0	3

CHURCH—

MUSIC

4525	Hymn Tunes, Ancient and Modern, Second Supplement, with Indexes (Vertical Score) ... Vol 1	2	6
4526	Ditto ditto ditto " 2	2	6
4546	Communion Service, musically noted by Merbecke, edited by Shaw ..	1	0

ORGAN—


4544	Choral-Prelude, "Come now, Saviour of the Gentiles," by Bach, Vol. VII, No. 45 (Bar by Bar) ...	0	3
4541	"Allegretto" (from the Seventh Symphony), by Beethoven (Bar by Bar) .	0	4
4543	"Rhapsody No. 3," by Howells, Op. 17 (Bar by Bar) ...	0	5
4545	"Fugue in G major," by Wesley (Bar by Bar) ...	0	4
4542	"Rhapsodie No. 2," by Saint-Saëns, Op. 7 (Bar by Bar) ...	0	4

PIANO—

4548	"Lyric Pieces," Book VII, Nos. 1-3, by Grieg, Op. 62 (Bar by Bar) ...	0	5
4549	Ditto Nos. 4-6, ditto ditto	0	5
4550	"Wanderstunden, No. 3," by Heller, Op. 80 (Bar by Bar) ...	0	4
4551	Ditto No. 6, ditto ditto	0	4
4547	"Sea Pieces," by MacDowell, Op. 55 (Bar by Bar) ...	1	0
4552	"Light Cavalry," (Overture), by Suppé (Bar by Bar) ...	0	4
4553	"Tom Jones," (Selection), Ly German (Bar by Bar) ...	0	9
4554	"Bright and Breezy," (Lancers), arranged by Stoddon (Bar by Bar) ...	0	5
4555	"Pins and Needles," (Fox-Trot), by Baynes (Bar by Bar) ...	0	3
4556	"Pom Pom," (Fox-Trot), by Thurban (Bar by Bar) ...	0	2


SONGS—

4557	"Two Old Songs," by MacDowell, Op. 9 (E flat: Compass, E to E') ...	0	4
4558	"A Memory" ("Le Baiser"), by Goring Thomas (D: Compass, D to F') ...	0	3
4559	"Alone!" ("Sans Amour"), by Chaminade (E minor: Compass, B, to E') ...	0	3
4560	"Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal," by Quilter (F: Compass, D to F') ...	0	3
4561	"Song of the Mariner," by Littlewood (C: Compass, C to E' flat) ...	0	4



THE BEACON

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED
TO THE
INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



▪ CONTENTS ▪

	PAGE
Editorial	1
Music at the National Institute	2
The Blind Persons Act	2
Recent Additions to the Massage Library	2
Committee on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness	3
Blind Mayor of Swindon	4
The Blind Homer	5
Miners' Blindness	6
Blind Shorthand Writer	6
New Workshops for the Blind	7
London's Children	8

	PAGE
Dominoes for the Blind	9
Scholarships for the Blind	9
Government Unemployment Act	9
The Blind Bird's Nest	10
"Daily Mirror" for the Blind	13
National Library for the Blind	13
National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers	14
Films and the Eyesight	14
Blind Music Librarian	15
Books for the Blind	16
Recent Additions to the National Library	16



NOVEMBER.

Vol. IV. No. 47.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

IN view of the fact that some subscribers to *The Beacon* have written to say that the Supplementary List of books published by the National Institute for the Blind has been lost, we have decided in future to print the Supplementary Catalogue on this page.

EDUCATIONAL				s.	d.	PIANO—		Music—continued	
4375	New Guide Arithmetic (Scholars), Book 6					4580	Technical Studies, Grades 3-5 (Selected from the Syllabus of the Incorporated Society of Musicians) (Bar by Bar) ...	1	0
			Vol. 1 ...	2	6				
4376	Ditto ditto ditto		" 2 ...	2	6	4581	Nos. 5 and 6 of "Forty-eight Preludes and Fugues," Part I, by Bach (Bar by Bar)	0	5
4377	New Guide Arithmetic (Teachers) Book 6					4582	"Three Bavarian Dances," by Elgar, Op. 27, (Bar by Bar) ...	0	9
			Vol. 1 ...	2	6	4583	"The Enchanted Lake," by Alcock (Bar by Bar) ...	0	3
4378	Ditto ditto ditto		" 2 ...	2	6	4584	"A Deserted Waterway" (Five Holiday Impressions), by Bernard Johnson (Bar by Bar) ...	0	9
4379	" " " "		" 3 ...	2	6	4585	"Minuet in F," by Logan (Bar by Bar)	0	2
4380	" " " "		" 4 ...	2	6	4586	"Five Miniatures," by Swinstead, Op. 25 (Bar by Bar) ...	0	4
4381	New Guide Arithmetic (Scholars) Book 7					4587	"A Story Book" (Six Easy Pieces), by Dunhill, Op. 53 (B r by Bar)	0	9
			Vol. 1 ...	2	6	4588	"Scottish Tunes" (For Young Pianists), arranged by Carse (Bar by Bar) ...	0	5
4382	Ditto ditto ditto		" 2 ...	2	6	4589	"Moonlight Saunter," by Hurndall (Bar by Bar) ...	0	2
4383	New Guide Arithmetic (Teachers), Book 7					4590	"La Carina Waltz," by Young (Bar by Bar)	0	3
			Vol. 1 ...	2	6	4591	"Where there's a girl there's a boy" (One-Step), by Penso (Bar by Bar) ...	0	3
4384	Ditto ditto ditto		" 2 ...	2	6	4592	"Jakerloo Fox-Trot," by Hastings (Bar by Bar) ...	0	3
4385	" " " "		" 3 ...	2	6	4593	"The Maurice Tango," by Hein (Bar by Bar) ...	0	3
4386	" " " "		" 4 ...	2	6				
4387	" " " "		" 5 ...	2	6	SONGS—			
4531	Economics for the General Reader (Clay) (E.S.B.F.) ...		Vol. 1 ...	2	6	4594	"Deh Vieni, Non Tardar" ("Oh Come, Do Not Delay") (from "Le Nozze di Figaro") by Mozart (F: Compass, A to A') ...	0	5
4532	Ditto ditto ditto		" 2 ...	2	6	4595	"Echo," by Somerset (G: Compass, D to E') ...	0	3
4533	" " " "		" 3 ...	2	6	4596	"Dawn," by Fothergill (C: Compass, D to G') ...	0	3
4534	" " " "		" 4 ...	2	6	4597	"Sweet is True Love," by Fothergill (E minor: Compass, B, to A') ...	0	3
ESSAYS AND BELLES LETTRES						4598	"Daddy's Sweetheart," by Lehmann (G: Compass, D to D') ...	0	3
4527	Ghosts of Piccadilly (Street)		Vol. 1 ...	2	6	4599	"The Hat of Green" and "The Joys of Home," by Schumann (Compass, D to A') ...	0	4
4528	" " " "		" 2 ...	2	6	4600	"Five Songs of Innocence," by Somervell (High Voice: Compass, C to G') ...	0	6
4536	The Common Round of Shakespeare's London Life in 1591 (Barnard) (Pocket)			0	4	4601	"English Lyrics" (Sixth Set), by Parry (Medium Voice: Compass, C to E') ...	1	0
FICTION						DUET—			
4285	Extracts from Adam's Diary (Twain) (Pocket) ...			0	6	4602	"O Lovely Night!" (Contralto and Baritone), by Landon Ronald ...	0	4
4529	The House of the Wolf (Weyman)					FOUR-PART SONGS—			
			Vol. 1 ...	2	6	4603	"The Chase" (S.A.T.B.), by German (Open and Vertical Scores) ...	0	9
4530	Ditto ditto ditto		" 2 ...	2	6	4604	"Nymphs and Shepherds" (S.A.T.B.), by Purcell (Open and Vertical Scores)	0	5
HISTORICAL						4605	"The Frog" (S.A.T.B.), by Newton (Open and Vertical Scores) ...	0	6
4562	Deeds that Won the Empire (Fitchett)					THEORY—			
			Vol. 1 ...	2	6	4570	"Constructive Harmony," Part II, by Yorke Trotter ...	2	6
4563	Ditto ditto ditto		" 2 ...	2	6				
4209	Outline of History (Wells)		Vol. 9 ...	2	6				
POETRY									
4535	Verses (Calverley) (Pocket) ...			0	6				
SCIENTIFIC (E.S.B.F.)									
4537	The Tides (Darwin)		Vol. 1 ...	2	6				
4538	" " " "		" 2 ...	2	6				
4539	" " " "		" 3 ...	2	6				
4540	" " " "		" 4 ...	2	6				
CHURCH—									
4574	"An Anglican Folk Mass," by Martin Shaw ...			1	0				
ORGAN—									
4575	"Six Pieces for the Organ," by Cyril Scott, arranged by Pollitt (Bar by Bar)			0	9				
4576	Chorale Prelude on "Eventide," by Parry (Bar by Bar) ...			0	3				
4577	"Berceuse in G," by Faulkes (Bar by Bar)			0	3				
4578	"Minuet Antique," by Watling (Bar by Bar)			0	2				
4579	"The Village Organist," Book 16 (A Series of Pieces for Church and General Use), edited by J. Stainer and F. Cunningham Woods (Bar by Bar) ...			1	0				

The Xmas **BEACON**

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



Snow at Sunshine House.

New Publications

FICTION

FICTION										s.	d.	
4565	Black Beauty (Sewell)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Vol. 1	...	2	6
4566	"	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	"	2	...	6
4572	The Would-be-Goods (Nesbit)	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	"	1	...	6
4573	"	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	"	2	...	6
4607	Plunder (Somers Roche) (Carnegie)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"	1	...	6
4608	"	"	...	...	...	...	...	...	"	2	...	6

[illegible][illegible]

4564	Wireless Telegraphy (Fortescue) (E.S.B.F.)	Vol. 1 ... 2 6
4612	Sources of Power, Known and Unknown (Lodge) (Pocket) 0 6

MUSIC

4609	"The Hallowed Day hath Shined upon us" (Christmas Anthem) by Stainer (Vertical Score)	...	0	5
4611	"Come and hear the Angels" (Carol for Trebles in Unison, with Quartet), by Lloyd (Vertical Score)	...	0	3
4610	"Sleep, Baby, Sleep!" (Carol for Contralto Solo and Chorus), by T. Adams (Vertical Score)	...	0	4
4614	"As with gladness men of old" (Carol) by Walford Davies (Vertical Score)	...	0	2
4615	"Communion Service in C," by King Hall (Vertical Score)	...	1	6

4616	"Schiller-March," by Meyerbeer (Bar by Bar)	0	6
4617	"Largo" ("New World" Symphony) by Dvořák (Bar by Bar)	0	4	
4618	"Romance in D flat," by Lemare (Bar by Bar)	0	4		
4619	"Sacred Echoes" (Ten Voluntaries for Harmonium or American Organ) by Noel Johnson (Bar by Bar)	0	6		
4620	"Solemn March in E minor," by Noble (Bar by Bar)	0	3		

4621	"Sonata No. 14 ("Moonlight"), by Beethoven, Op. 27, No. 2 (Bar by Bar)	1	0
4622	"Second Rhapsodie Hongroise," by Liszt (Bar by Bar)	0	9
4623	"Suite Bergamasque," by Debussy (Bar by Bar)	1	0
4624	"Si Oiseau J'étais" (Etude), by Henselt (Bar by Bar)	0	3
4625	"Sight Reading Exercises," Book I, by Schäfer (Bar by Bar)	1	0
4626	"Poet and Peasant," Overture, by Suppé (Bar by Bar)	0	5
4627	"Joy-Ride," Lancers, arr. by Pether (Bar by Bar)	0	6
4628	Intermezzo "Forget-me-not," by Macbeth (Bar by Bar)	0	3
4629	"Three Miniature Pastorals," by F. Bridge (Bar by Bar)	0	4
4630	"Pieces for the Bairns," by Howell (Bar by Bar)	0	4
4631	"Cinderella" (Eleven Little Pieces), by Holland (Bar by Bar)	0	4

4632	"Soirées Musicales," Book 3, by D'Ourville, Primo Parts, (Bar by Bar) 0 9
4633	" " " " " " Secondo Parts (Bar by Bar) 0 9

4634	"Simple Aveu" (Romance sans Paroles), by Thomé, Op. 25 (Bar by Bar)	0	4
------	---	-----	-----	-----	---	---

[illegible]

4644	"Maying" (for Contralto and Baritone), by A. Smith 0 5
------	---

4645	"The Shower" (S.A.T.B.) by Elgar (Open and Vertical Scores)	0	4
4646	"O Peaceful Night" (S.A.T.B.), by German (Open and Vertical Scores)	0	6

